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FREE WILL BAPTIST

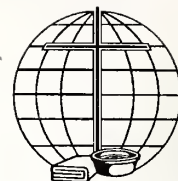
January 2005

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THE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST MONTHLY PLANNER January 2005



RETIREMENT HOMES MONTH

Meeting dates and locations are subject to change. You are encouraged to call in advance to confirm meeting schedules.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						NEW YEAR'S DAY 1 Cape Fear Youth Rally FWB Youth Convention Executive Committee Meeting
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Residence Halls Open for Traditional Students—Mount Olive College	10 Central Conference Board of Ordination Meeting	11	12	13 Layman's League Executive Board Meeting, Snow Hill VFW Building, 7 P.M.	14	15 FWB Woman's Auxiliary Executive Committee Meeting
16	17 High School Visitation Day—Mount Olive College	18 Spring Convocation—Mount Olive College	19	20	21	22
23 Retirement Homes Sunday	24 Cape Fear Minister's Fellowship—10 A.M. Executive Committee Meeting	25	26	27 Minister's Wives Retreat—sponsored by S.S. Board	28 Minister's Wives Retreat—sponsored by S.S. Board	29 Minister's Wives Retreat—sponsored by S.S. Board
30 Minister's Wives Retreat—sponsored by S.S. Board	31	NOTES: COMING SOON:				

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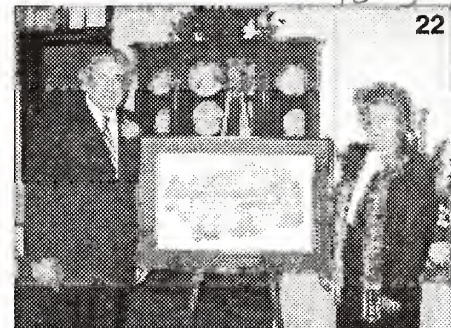
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POWER VERSE

And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power (Acts 1:7).

MOMENTS IN TIME

by Darren E. Davenport, Editor

Here we are again, embarking on yet another brand new year. Do you have any plans? Have you made preparations for what's ahead? Nope, me neither. Well, not exactly. I mean, I have thought about several things that would be nice to do. For one, my wife and I have thought about finishing up the bonus room of our home, but we're not quite sure what to do with it. New Year's resolutions just don't seem to last very long, but maybe I'll see if I can stick to at least one for the long haul.

Time seems to have flown by these last few years. It's amazing! I seem to be reminiscing over childhood memories, and a lot about my dad. We did lots of things together when my three brothers and I were growing up. Our dad took us fishing (of just about all sorts) and hunting. We loved it. Yet, I haven't done any real fishing since my daddy's death in 1991. It doesn't seem like I have the patience for it anymore; or, I don't remember all the ways to do things; or, it's just not the same without him—I'm not sure why. But it's something I'd like to get back into—I think. Maybe it's the cleaning of the fish afterwards (that wasn't so fun but we had to do) that sours the thought of it?! Anyway, it was fun and peaceful,

and maybe that would be good for me at this stage of my life!

Anyway, our memories, or "moments in time" that we have are certainly things to cherish—and really—whether they are good or bad or both. Good memories are great, but we need to cherish the not-so-good or bad ones, too. Sound strange? It shouldn't. Our life experiences help to make us who we are. We can choose to rise above the bad that happens to us and choose to be and do better. God is not to blame for anything bad that happens in our lives. But, because bad does happen—and it will touch us all at some point—God will be with us and give us the strength and wherewithal to make

the most of anything that comes our way. According to Philippians 4:13, "[we] can do all things through Christ who strengthens [us]" (NKJV). We have to, daily, call on that strength to see us through. When we feel down, we should call on Him, believing, and He will see us through. Let's make the most of this new year and keep Christ in the middle of it all! Happy New Year!



IT'S A MATTER OF TIME

by C. H. Overman, Editor Emeritus

Time has been referred to as the most precious thing in the world. We may not agree with such a positive and definite statement, but it is certainly worthy of our consideration.

To the Ephesians Paul wrote, "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:15-16). In essence, we are to make full and valuable use of our time as we move about in our place in this world, with an awareness of what is going on about us. An unwise use of some elements in life are recoverable. We may lose a friend, but he may be regained. We may lose position and happiness, but it may be reclaimed as we position ourselves in the will of God. We may lose money in some monetary venture, but we may make it up in later profitable investments. Time, however, once lost cannot be regained. When it has passed, it is gone forever. We can make atonement for its loss, but the minutes, hours, days, etc., cannot be recalled, or lived again.

Each of us has all the time that providence allows. We know that God has given each of us twenty-four hours a day. We can do whatever we choose with those hours, but we must realize that we are accountable for the way(s) we use this most precious gift.

Time has also been spoken of as a period between two eternities. We live our lives in a time span; our lives are regulated by it. Events are dated according to time—events in history, birthdays, anniversaries, wars, destructive storms, work hours, getting up each morning, etc. God sent His Son, according to Galatians 4:4: "when the fulness of the time was come."

We assume that time is on our side. The Bible warns us, however, that life is short—only a handbreadth in length, as a vapor, as a shadow, and as grass that flourishes and is soon cut down. When young we became impatient with time, thinking that certain events and happenings will never come, but they come and they pass on with time. When young we were warned that time would pass much quicker as we grow older, and indeed it does. We didn't believe it then, but now we know it is true. We arise each Monday morning and before we know it, the week is gone.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 reminds us there is a time to every purpose under the heaven" (v. 1), then those purposes of time are mentioned. It's how we use those times that really matters. There is work and there is leisure, and there must be time of spiritual refreshing. If we are careless, we lose and that particular time cannot be relived.

A new year has begun. Before we know it, it will be gone. Perhaps each of us, at one time or another, has been asked if we have any regrets about the past. It is likely that we answer, at least within ourselves, with a guilty "yes." When this year ends, may we be able to say that we have more wisely used this precious gift of time, for it is a stewardship.

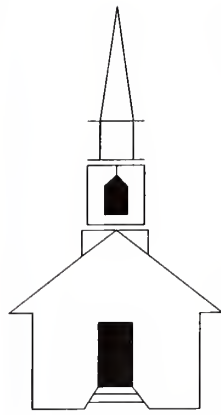
"Like the speed of an arrow that is shot from a bow;
Like the glance of a sunbeam on mountains of snow;
Like the lightning that flashes a moment then dies,
So swift move the wheel of time as it flies."

—Author Unknown

I Am Concerned About the Church

by The Reverend Walter Reynolds

(The following is the sermon preached at the Central Conference on November 4, 2004)



In Matthew 16:18 Jesus said, "...I will build my church...." In the beginning of our nation's history the church was important to our founding fathers. I can remember as a boy growing up in a farm community, that just about every family in the community attended church. In those days churches had preaching services only about one weekend a month. These services were well attended and the church would be filled to capacity. Revival services were also well attended. In our church we would have a morning service and an evening service for at least one week, and the church would be filled for each service and people would be saved.

Just preceding and during World War II, church was very important to the American people. People would go to church to worship and pray. What has happened since the forties and fifties to this time? We are told that two-thirds of the members of Protestant churches are absent on any given Sunday. There has come a distressing, disturbing erosion of loyalty and faithfulness to the church.

Church attendance is partly a habit, and people are out of the habit of going to church. There are vast numbers in the nation who do not identify themselves with any church. Increasing numbers are growing up without any background or basic knowledge of the Bible and the Christian faith. This truth became very real to me this summer when, during our VBS, one of the ladies who attends our church brought her young son to VBS. Her son invited a child who was visiting her father next door to where they lived. Her father was divorced and the child was visiting from Texas. She didn't know anything about VBS and had never been to church more than one or two times. She knew nothing at all about the Bible

and Jesus and His love. It was good to know that at least for a short time she heard the Good News about Jesus Christ and His love for her. There are so many who have no connection or relationship with the church and know little or nothing about the church.

Never has the church had such impressive worship facilities as it has today. In early American life, the church was the center of the social life as well as of the religious life in the community. The Lord's Day was observed as a holy day not a holiday. In colonial times, a person either went to church or he had no place to go. Today there are many other places appealing and competing for our loyalty. Sunday is a work day for too many people. In many stores it is the busiest day of the week. Some employees cannot attend church services because the public demands their services on Sunday. The boats, the lakeside cabins, the professional sports events, the TV, and many other things compete for our time and attention. The church is more and more the loser to spectacular and exciting substitutes. I am concerned about what is happening to the church in America.

I. I am concerned about the decline in the church:

People are not attending church, and I ask myself, why are they not attending church? Is it true what people outside of the church are saying? "I'm better than some of those down at the church." Do you know that people are watching us? If our lives show that our faith means little to us, those watching us will conclude that it will mean little to them. They are not seeing the God [who] should be seen in our lives. The God of all power, the God of love, mercy and grace. The God [who] helps us to live good lives and minister to others. Being good is not all of it, but not being good turns off many people who need the Lord, and they just don't come to church.

1. People don't come to church because many of us have set a bad example.

They don't see much Christianity in the way we live even though we claim to be Christians. When we sing, "O How I Love Jesus" on Sunday and take God's name in vain on Monday and throughout the week we are setting a bad example. When we act like saints on Sunday and then like the devil the rest of the week, we are setting a bad example. If we do not live up to what we profess in everything we do, we are not setting a good example and we will be the cause of some people not attending church.

2. People don't come to church because they do not know we care about them.

How can they know we care, if we do not let them know? Some do not come because they have not been invited. If we do not care enough to invite people to church, we do not care very much. Some come but do not return because we do not let them know we are glad to have them—we are not friendly toward them. How far we have drifted from the Great Shepherd who missed the one sheep and then left the ninety-nine to bring the one lost sheep back. We do need to invite the unchurched. We need to let the unsaved know we care about them. How many have you spoken to about attending church and receiving Christ as Savior?

3. People don't come to church because the church fails to meet their needs.

I would certainly hope our churches don't fall into this category. There are people who think they have all kinds of needs the church can meet. Physical, financial, personal, family, social, and on and on. However, man's greatest need is spiritual and when man's spiritual needs are met, all of his other genuine needs, I believe, can be met in Jesus Christ. The church is here to proclaim the simple truth of God's Word that the unsaved may understand the plan of salvation and be saved, and that

(Continued on next page)

the saved may be built up in the most holy faith. If we fail here we are failing to meet the most urgent needs of people.

4. *There are some people who don't come to church because they have shut the church out of their lives.*

There are those who do not want to have anything to do with the church. They like the way they are living and they don't want to change. There are those who do not want to change their lifestyles; for them Sunday is either a fun day or a work day. They want nothing to do with the church. There are those who do not include the church in their plans; it is only for weddings and funerals—other than this they have nothing to do with the church.

II. I am also concerned about the divisiveness of church people:

Titus 1:10–11: "For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake." The *Today's English Version* translates these verses like this: "For there are many, especially the converts from Judaism, who rebel and deceive others with their nonsense. It is necessary to stop their talk, because they are upsetting whole families by teaching what they should not, and all for the shameful purpose of making money."

1. *Paul mentions some specific things about those who would create trouble in the church here in these verses.*

Sad to say there are those in the church today who would create trouble. There were some in the church who Paul said were "unruly;" the *Today's English Version* says they rebelled against the church. They were undisciplined; they were like disloyal soldiers who refuse to obey the commands given. They would neither accept guidance, nor the teaching of the church. There were also "vain talkers" in the church and they were causing trouble. The word "vain" here means empty. They were empty talkers; what they said had no substance, or value. There were also "deceivers" in the church. They led people away from the truth and led people astray. The word "deceivers" implies that they did this

by cheating and by guile. They upset families, "subvert whole houses," Paul said. Their teaching was fundamentally wrong, and was upsetting people. It ended in nothing but doubts and questions, whereas if the truth had been taught it would have been positive and certain. They exercised influence over people [who] brought about dissension in the church. Their motive was money, either fees or gifts, and they were more concerned with what they could get out of people than they were with how they could help people. It is a shame these kinds of people can even get into the church, but they do. They are in the church even today. Evidence of it is seen on every hand. In our day there are false teachers spreading their false doctrine everywhere they can.

2. *Jude tells us about those who are dangerous to the church.*

Jude verse 4 says, "For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ." Jude says there are certain men who have joined the church, but who are not worthy of the fellowship of the church. They have sneaked in, slipped in, and their presence is deplorable. They have an ungodly character. The expression "ungodly" gives the idea that they lacked any reverence for God and His church. They are members of the church but they have no spiritual understanding or appreciation for God or the church. They belong because it is the thing to do, or because of their family, or for business reasons. A church that is filled with unregenerate people is a pitiful sight. It is a contradiction to its existence. Jude says they are guilty of "turning the grace of God into lasciviousness"—turning God's grace into something evil. Someone put it this way, "Who pervert the grace of God into immorality." They counted God's patience and mercy as softness and weakness. They mistook His longsuffering for helplessness. But they did not stop there. They went so far as to try to utilize the characteristics of God for their own selfish purposes. If they recognized Him at all, they interpreted the delay of His judgment as being the approval of their wickedness.

III. I am also concerned about the divisions in the church:

The church in the days of the apostles was plagued with divisions, even as it is with present day churches. This lack of a warm, unifying love that expresses itself in a unity of action was a hindrance then even as it is a hindrance today. God's family here in the world is a human family that has been redeemed by the grace of God. It is no small achievement when we experience a unity of heart, of mind, and of effort that makes it possible for the Spirit of God to do His work through us.

Paul tells us the church at Philippi was threatened with disunity. Among the many things that were disturbing the fellowship of this congregation was a breach of fellowship between two of the leading members of the church. Paul makes a personal appeal to them to settle all of their differences. He declared that if they would do so, it would make him happy and cause his cup of joy to overflow. Many churches are dividing over insignificant and petty differences. Very seldom are divisions in the church caused by spiritual differences. What we need today is unity in the church. Are you out of harmony with members in the church congregation? If so, as Paul urges, we should settle all of our differences as quickly as possible. A lack of harmony and fellowship will hurt one's testimony and will deprive them of joy in their heart. Because of your relationship to Christ your experience of love, your fellowship in the Spirit, and your compassion, it is possible for you to love some who are unlovely, and to at least be agreeable with some who may be difficult at times. Division, strife, and hostility casts a reflection on the cause of Christ and hinders His work in the world. We must avoid divisions if we want to be pleasing to our Lord and be effective in our witness to an unsaved world.

IV. I am also concerned about the lack of dedication in the church:

Something has happened in America when we have less than ten percent of the American people in church on Sunday. Something is wrong! What has

(Continued on next page)

happened? Seventy-five percent of all churches in America have less than one hundred people in attendance on Sunday morning; less than five percent of American people attend church on Sunday evening. The average preacher preaches to seventy percent empty pews. What has happened to the time when our churches were filled to capacity to now?

1. *The world has taken away our loyalty to the church.*

The world and the things of the world have consumed our attention and time and we have left the church out. It is so easy for us to put everything else ahead of the church, and we soon find that we have no time left for the church.

2. *Prosperity has greatly affected our loyalty.*

Prosperity can do strange things to people. It can cause us to be haughty, arrogant, and ugly. It can make one negligent, indifferent, and lazy when it comes to church work. Paul describes those who have been affected by prosperity in 2 Timothy 3:5 as "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof:..." They may claim to be Christians, make pretense of serving the Lord, but God says they are dead; they are just an empty shell.

3. *To be a loyal Christian and loyal to the church will cost us.*

Loyalty does not come cheap, Matthew 16:24: "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."

(1) *It will cost us a deep personal faith in Jesus Christ.*

To be a Christian one must meet the requirements and meet the demands of Jesus for entry into His Kingdom. We must be born again. We must know Him as our Savior.

(2) *Loyalty will cost us time in service to the church.*

A stalk of corn is a stalk of corn even though it may be growing in a weed patch. Under such conditions, however, it will not be much of a stalk of corn, and it certainly will not bear any harvest of grain. Conceivably, a Christian can be a Christian and not be an active member of a local church, but he will not be much of a Christian, certainly not a fruit bearing Christian.

Every Christian who is truly born again, I believe, will desire to be an active part of a body of believers. We should be faithful in using our talents in the church. We need to be faithful in attendance.

(3) *Loyalty will also cost us money.*

The use of money is one of the chief determining factors as to whether a Christian has really made Jesus the Lord of his life. The use of money reveals much about our spiritual commitment. It is the duty of Christians to tithe. Old Testament believers, living under the Law, knew that as followers of Jehovah God they were to give at least a tenth of their increase to the Lord. How can a Christian who is under God's grace, His unmerited favor, afford to do less than an Old Testament Jew who lived under the Law? It is the duty of Christians to promote stewardship in the church. Stewardship involves our time and talents, as well as our money.

(4) *Loyalty will cost us spiritual energy.*

One of the greatest weakness of most Christians is that we are lazy spiritually. We don't read and study the Bible as we should. We don't witness to others for Christ. We don't give our time to work in the church. We don't put forth much effort in our prayer life. We don't make time in our busy activities to worship every Lord's day.

V. I am also concerned about the destiny of the church:

Where is the church going? Will the church continue in the direction in which it is headed? Is the church destined to die and fade from the scene? Will the church of America follow in the way of the Church of England where less than three percent of the people attend church? In England there are massive church buildings giving evidence that at one time church life was a great institution, having great importance for the people. However, now many of the great church buildings are in disrepair, in ruins, or converted to other purposes. The great church of Spurgeon in London that will seat about two thousand people will have on a good Sunday about one hundred people in attendance. Jesus had a message in the book of Revelation, chapter three, for a church that was

dead. The Church was Sardis. In verse one, speaking to the church, He said, "and art dead." A church can live if it will respond to Christ; He says three very important things to this church and to us.

1. *In verse two He tells them to "Be watchful...." The Today's English Version says, "So wake up...."*

They need to "wake up" to their spiritual condition, their spiritual needs; they were dead spiritually. The church today needs to "wake up." As Christians we need to be living in the reality of Christ's mighty power upon our lives. In verse three Jesus calls for repentance in the life of the Sardis Church. We must face the sin in our lives, confess it to Christ and seek His forgiveness.

2. *Then in verse four Jesus refers to: "a few names" of the faithful in this church.*

These were truly committed believers devoted to Christ and His church. In most churches there are those who are faithful and concerned about the spiritual needs, and thank God for them.

3. *Then in verse five, Jesus appeals to the individual Christians when he says, "He that overcometh."*

We are all individuals in the sight of God. The truth is, a church is never more than what we are as individuals in our personal relationship to Jesus Christ. Dedication, loyalty, and faithfulness should be manifested in our lives as Christians.

What has happened to the church in America? Sin has invaded our land and our churches and it has taken over. We have allowed it, and are letting it happen. If we are to survive as a church we must yield to Christ, repent of our sins, and experience revival. 2 Chronicles 7:14: "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." This is the direction for the church to go if it is to be a living, thriving force for God in the world today. And this is the direction we must go as individuals if we want the church to be what God intended it to be, for we are the church.

The Faith of Our Founders

by W. Burkette Raper

(The following is the Mount Olive College Founders Day Address, given on November 23 by Dr. Raper.)

"Measure me not by the heights to which I have climbed but by the depth from which I have come."—Frederick Douglass (1817–1895)

Founders Day 2004 brings us to the half-century mark in the collegiate history of Mount Olive College. It has been my good fortune to be a part of this history from the beginning. It is not that I am old—it is that the College is young!

To see Mount Olive College as it is today, without the knowledge of how it has become what it is, would be like standing by a river, and thinking that the river is only what we see—unaware of the springs and watersheds from whence the flowing water has come.

Founders Day is a call to search out the springs which have grown into the river which we now call Mount Olive College. And, so, I invite you to walk with me upstream where we will meet some of our founders who stood at the fountainhead of this river. I knew each of these founders, and I want to share with you some of the problems they had to overcome and what I believe was their vision for this college.

I have entitled this address "The Faith of Our Founders" and I have done so because there were times when faith was about all they had. Faith, however, is more than confidence in the future; our faith is what we believe, and from this perspective the founders of Mount Olive College had a reservoir of unconquerable strength. For them, this strength was not their own, but the strength they believed God had given them to carry out a mission—a mission in Christian higher education.

I believe the history we celebrate today is a mark of divine providence in our time. By human standards, this college was destined for failure. In the formative stages of the college, a noted professor at a major university expressed the view that "...it is in the wrong place and is sponsored by the wrong people." By this, he meant that the Mount Olive community did not have the civic and cultural awareness to be patrons of a college, and that the

Free Will Baptist Church did not have the perspective, leadership or resources for a successful venture in higher education. This nationally known educator, who knew eastern North Carolina, was simply expressing what many others thought. The faith of our founders, however, gave them the courage and strength to persevere and to prevail.

At the forefront of these founders was the Rev. David W. Hansley, a man who did not have the benefit of a college education but who had the vision of higher education for his children and the young people of the Free Will Baptist Church, and others who wanted the advantages of attending a Christian college.

In September 1951, without funds or facilities, I saw Mr. Hansley stand before the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists in Bladenboro and request authorization for the Board of Christian Education, of which he was chair, to begin a junior college at Cragmont Assembly near Black Mountain. He asked for \$10,000 in gifts to launch the college. Without waiting, however, to see what response there would be, he and the Board of Christian Education moved to prepare a charter for the college, which they filed with the Secretary of State on November 27—hence the November date for our annual Founders Day observance.

Notwithstanding that contributions during the past twelve months came to only \$800, I saw Mr. Hansley one year later (1952) go before the Convention at Belmont and announce that the college would indeed open on September 22. The president would be the Rev. Lloyd Vernon, a native of Mount Olive and a highly respected Free Will Baptist minister.

This time Mr. Hansley requested \$20,000 in gifts. Six students enrolled for the first term. While Cragmont was an ideal retreat center, it was too far

removed from the heartland of Free Will Baptists in eastern North Carolina to be a suitable location for their college.

In September 1953, I saw Mr. Hansley stand before the Convention again—this time at Marsh Swamp Church in Wilson County. With \$6.17 in the college treasury, he displayed pictures of an old abandoned grammar school building in Mount Olive, and proposed the purchase of this property at a cost of \$25,000. The Convention was divided and deferred a decision until the next day.

Following adjournment, Rose and I drove to Mount Olive to see the property, and what we saw is vivid in our minds to this day—unkept grounds, with tall grass and weeds; and a building that showed the marks of neglect: broken windows, and an overall drab appearance. Inside there was fallen plaster, cracked chalkboards and sagging floors, upended grammar school desks and debris everywhere. The underlying issue before the Convention, however, was not the property itself, but whether Original Free Will Baptists should embark on an educational venture at the collegiate level.

The next day, the Convention approved the purchase of the property and elected the first board of trustees. During the fall, winter, and spring of 1953–1954, the trustees sought funds to pay for the old building and suit it up to become the home of a college. The Rev. R. H. Jackson, one of the trustees, brought a group of volunteers from Davis Church in Carteret County, a round trip of 260 miles to help with the clean up.

A committee, including the Rev. Earl Glenn, the only surviving member today of the original trustees, and the late Rev. Bruce Barrow, with the assistance of Dr. James W. Batten, later

(Continued on next page)

professor of education at East Carolina University, put together a liberal arts curriculum for the first year of collegiate level studies.

In May 1954, the Rev. James A. Evans became the first full-time employee of the college with the title, "director of public relations," which included fundraising and the recruitment of students. Much work was done during the summer, but by July, neither a president nor any faculty member was under contract.

On July 6, however, the trustees met and that afternoon Mr. Hansley arrived at Hull Road Church in Greene County where I was pastor. After a brief greeting, he said he had come on behalf of the board to offer me the presidency of the college. It is a long and soul-searching story for another time, but on August 2, I began a work that would require all the time and energy I could give it. I was young (age 26), strong, and healthy—200 pounds and felt that anything was possible—a challenge that I was soon to face many times over.

Upon arrival in Mount Olive, six weeks before classes were scheduled to begin, I discovered that repairs on the building had been stopped due to lack of funds. With no credit rating for a bank loan, the only alternative was to find someone who would make a personal loan. It was a tough sale, but with the loan in hand, Mr. Hansley agreed to supervise the work on the building while I recruited a faculty and sought gift support.

Before I even had a desk, Mr. Evans confronted me with a question that had the potential to thwart everything we were doing. The students he had recruited wanted to know if the courses they took at Mount Olive would transfer to four-year colleges. If not, he feared many of them would not enroll. Immediately we went to Raleigh to see Dr. James Hillman, Secretary of the North Carolina College Conference, the state accrediting agency. He reviewed with us the standards for accreditation, and after asking various questions about our readiness to begin a college level program, he said: "If you people are going down there to make a mess, we had rather not have it as a part of the history of education in North Carolina." For accreditation, one of the

requirements was a minimum of three senior colleges who would accept our credits. On a conditional agreement with Atlantic Christian—now Barton—we decided to proceed.

When the faculty—all five of us—gathered for our first conference on September 7, we reviewed our areas of work. In addition to my duties as president, I taught the courses in religion, had primary responsibility for gift support, served as business manager, and continued my pastoral services to Hull Road Church. Other faculty members also had multi-duties.

Twenty-two students enrolled. There were no library resources, no science laboratory, no food service, and no recreation or athletic facilities. Our student center was a drink vending machine under the steps leading upstairs to the auditorium, which was unfurnished, except for some grammar school desks. I brought from home my new set of the *Encyclopedia Britannica* as the first reference resources for the library—and later gave it to the college.

It was, indeed, a Spartan beginning, but it was the fountainhead of a spring that would grow deeper and wider until it became the beautiful and flowing river which we now call Mount Olive College.

With the beginning of classes on September 10, 1954, we crossed the Rubicon, and there would be no retreat. Not the half has been told, but on this Founders Day—50 years later—I think it appropriate to remember our founders, without whose faith and sacrifice the college we now know and love would not be here.

The road that winds through these 50 years has not been easy. There have been many times when this college was suspended on a thin thread at the verge of extinction, but we have looked up and forged ahead. It is a story not so much of our achievement as the Providence of Almighty God.

I believe the strength of Mount Olive College is in its mission—the mission to be a distinctive Christian college. It is my belief that the founders had three primary objectives they wanted to achieve.

1. First and foremost, they wanted a Christian College.

The vision of the founders is stated

clearly in the catalog for the first collegiate academic year (1954–1955). On the title page is the motto they chose: "A Christian College for Men and Women." Just inside the catalog we find the motto explained:

"The objective of the college is to train and educate young men and women for Christian life and service, thus preparing them for useful vocations and successful living in the home, the church, the school, the community and the world."

And under the section on "Spiritual Life," the catalog states: "The College, being distinctly Christian, considers the development of Christian character of supreme importance."

During the past 50 years the purpose of the College has been restated in various ways, including the current statement on our Founders Day program. But however stated, the truth remains that the vision of the founders and the vision of the Free Will Baptist Church is a college where the Christian faith is the center of gravity which gives unity and purpose to the work of the College.

2. A second objective of the founders was a college that helps students become all that God endowed them to be—in the words of Governor Charles B. Aycock—"tourgeon out all that is within them."

The founders understood that the ultimate measure of a college is what it causes to happen in the lives of its students; and for this reason, the focus of Mount Olive College has always been the total development of students in a caring environment nurtured by academic excellence and the Christian faith.

To view students as children of God makes all the difference in the kind of education we provide for them. The distinctiveness of the Christian college is that it can bring a Christian perspective to every dimension of education. As our culture becomes increasingly secular, the more important the Christian college becomes.

3. A third objective of the founders was a college that could develop the kind of leadership—both ministers and

(Continued on next page)

laypersons—that would help the Free Will Baptist Church fulfill its God-given mission. They believed that a Christian liberal arts college was the best mode for achieving this goal.

To help the College fulfill its mission, Original Free Will Baptists are now contributing \$1 million annually to support and to advance its work.

The march of progress across these years has not been easy, but it has been significant.

- In 1956 we began the purchase of land for what is now this campus.
- In 1958 we were accredited in minimum time by the North Carolina College Conference and in 1960 by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. It is a tribute to the academic quality of the College that

accreditation was attained while it was still in the old grammar school building.

- In 1965 we occupied the first buildings on this campus, and in 1994—thirty years later—we completed the transfer of all operations to this site.
- In 1984 we occupied College Hall, the flagship for Mount Olive College becoming a four-year college.
- In 1986 we awarded our first baccalaureate degrees.
- In 1995 I retired from the office of president, and Dr. J. William Byrd became the third president. Under his leadership, during the past ten years, the College has expanded its locations from three (Mount Olive, Goldsboro, and New Bern) to five

(adding Wilmington and the Research Triangle Park). In addition, the College has added new programs of study, substantially increased enrollment, installed state-of-the-art technology, and formulated plans for an extensive building program beginning in 2005.

Just as a river neither begins nor ends in what can be seen at one time, even so a successful college never begins nor ends in what can be seen in one time frame—not even in a lifetime. In the words of our Alma Mater:

Hail, Mount Olive, Alma Mater, endless years shall crown thy head; praise we then our great Creator, who through all the years shall lead. May thy torch of truth grow brighter still supplied with light divine; strong, and clear, and ever burning; on the path of wisdom shine.

“WHAT SHALL I RENDER UNTO THE LORD FOR ALL HIS BENEFITS TOWARD ME?”

Psalm 116:12

by The Reverend W. A. Dail, Greenville, NC

This article is reprinted from The Free Will Baptist, Wednesday, January 15, 1936 edition.

We have just past through the year 1935, and we find ourselves living in a new year, and there are many living this year that may not be here next year. So it might be well for us to look back over the past year and see if we can take an inventory of what the Lord has blessed us with.

When I read the words of David, “What shall I render unto the LORD for all his benefits toward me?” my mind goes out into a great field of thought, and I find myself lost for words to express all of God’s blessings toward me, they are so numerous. I think that too often we find ourselves complaining instead of giving thanks, and, therefore, we fail to get the real blessing. We fail to realize His great blessing. David was a man that made some mistakes in life, and yet he could realize God’s mercies, and he realized that he owed God something. So he asked the question, “What shall I render unto God for all his benefits toward me?”

I think we sometimes think that the Lord owes all and that we owe Him nothing. But when I visit those that are on the beds of affliction and look at the blind, the deaf, and the lame—some with one hand, some with one foot, and some with no feet at all, being deformed and crippled—others left to the mercy of the world without

mother or father, and then think that I have two hands, two feet, two eyes to see with, ears to hear with, and a tongue to sing with, I have to ask myself the question, “What shall I render unto the LORD for all his benefits toward me?” It is then that I can say with the Prophet Isaiah, “...all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags” (Isaiah 64:6).



I love to read about rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem—how the people had a mind to work, and how they sacrificed their time and money and all they had to rebuild the broken-down walls. Then I think of Paul and Silas when they were in jail, and then of us as a nation. What are we doing? Jesus charged us to go into all the world, not into the United States and stop, but into all the world. Have you ever thought of the fact that there are people

living in the world that know nothing about the Christ we worship? And have you ever thought of the responsibility of sending the message of Christ to those people? Well, you say that “where no law is there is no transgression” (Romans 4:15).

Again you say that we have heathen here at home. That may be true, but this nation and the people here have had the privilege of hearing the gospel, but there are others who have not had that privilege. If you have the kind of religion that you do not want anybody to have, I am afraid that you need another kind. Jesus said, “Go,” and we have not discharged our duty until we go.

Somebody said to me sometime ago that he did not believe a man could be saved without washing feet. Then I asked him how much he had given for missions this year, and he answered, “I don’t believe in missions.” I said, “Well, you need a washing besides your feet.” The same Christ gave both charges, and we should not be satisfied with doing just a few church ordinances. “What shall I render unto the LORD for all his benefits toward me?” This question is a personal question and it must be answered in a personal way. I cannot answer it for you, nor can you answer it for me.



JANUARY IS RETIREMENT HOMES MONTH

A great big thank you to everyone and every church that continues to support the Retirement Homes Ministry. At this time last year we reported that out of the 245 churches, 109 gave nothing and an additional 21 gave less than \$100. We are happy to have seen a change in these numbers. In 2004, the number of churches giving nothing decreased to 89 and the number giving less than \$100 declined to 14. This is great, but we still are unable to process any more applications because the change in the contribution amount will not allow us to do so.

Original Free Will Baptist Retirement Homes began a little over twenty-six years ago, first as a dream, then as a vision. This dream and vision began due to a desire to help our retired people who needed help with certain needs. Some needs were leading to dire circumstances, while other needs were not as drastic but needed attention.

The motto "People Helping People In Jesus' Name" was held high as the Director and Board reviewed the information and were convinced that this ministry was needed. They realized that in a society of plenty, the needy often go unnoticed. Today, the aim of this ministry is more important than ever. There are several people who do not meet the requirements of other programs or sources and it behooves the Original Free Will Baptist people to help.

To help means different things to different people. Some have no resources at all, others varying amounts calling for a greater or lesser support. We have several programs to attempt to meet these needs. First, our Resident Program is one in which the client participates by contributing a portion of his or her retirement income (whatever it may be) to OFWB Retirement Homes. Then, we provide all basic housing needs, including utilities (except telephone), appliances, yard care, etc. Second, our Housing Support Program is one through which we give a definite amount of financial support each month for a specific period of time, and try to renew the time period contract each year. Third, our Support Services Program is designed to help with housing and living needs services for those who cannot fit into other categories. Fourth, the Disability Equipment Availability Program provides convalescent equipment for those in need, such as: hospital beds, wheelchairs, recliner/lift chairs, etc.

We are providing assistance to 16 clients in our three assistance programs. They are: Jeremy, Jeffrey, and Sarah Reason; Teresa Starnes; Geraldine Morgan; Linda Sasser; Louise Owens; Nita Tucker; Kaye Jones; Betty Campbell; Louise Jones; The Rev. Rod Jones; Margaret Brown; Hulon Whitehead; and Dr. and Mrs. Cedric D. Pierce. In addition, we have several items of disability equipment on loan to various persons. All of our programs are serving our Original Free Will Baptist people and are limited to Free Will Baptists or persons who have worked for an Original Free Will Baptist Ministry for a minimum of ten years.

This kind of service is expensive. It is tragic that we still cannot open the application process for others who need our help due to finances. In the first paragraph, we mentioned the increase in the number churches who have given this year and we are thankful, but we need your help even more.

How can you help change this situation? You can help by (1) encouraging your church to invite the Executive Director to attend and explain the needs of our retiring community to you; (2) urging your church to give, on a regular basis, to Retirement Homes; and (3) supporting your church in its participation in ALL Original Free Will Baptist Ministries; this is the extension of your local church in its service to the world.

Original Free Will Baptist Retirement Homes and its staff thank each and every person and church for all their support—financially and prayerfully.



OFWB Retirement Homes
PO Box 39
Ayden, NC 28513
Telephone: (252) 746-4963
Fax: (252) 746-8780
e-mail: <director@ofwbretirementhomes.org>



RETIREMENT HOMES MINISTRY HAS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Reverend Bruce Dudley, who served as the Executive Director of the Retirement Homes Ministry for the past eight years, resigned due to health reasons. On November 23, 2004, the Executive Board of the Retirement Ministry named Mr. Ronnie Taylor as the new Executive Director. On December 6, 2004, Mr. Dudley went home to be with the Lord.

Mr. Taylor, son of the late Rev. Lemmie Taylor, is a long time member of Whaley's Chapel Church in Jones County. He has carried out several duties in his church including Chairperson of the Deacon Board, Sunday School teacher, Praise and Prayer leader, Sunday School Superintendent, and most anything else that needed to be done.



Ronnie Taylor

Mr. Taylor comes to Retirement Homes after a successful career as a teacher and school administrator. Most of Mr. Taylor's educational years were

completed in the Duplin County School system. He retired in 2003, but has continued to stay busy with church and family work.

Family has always been a high priority for Ronnie. He is married to the former Wanda Thomas of Richlands, who is a teacher in Onslow County. They have two daughters and sons-in-law, Wendy and Tony Philyaw, and Ronda and Kevin Moody. Hannah and Harlee Moody, ages 3 and 1 respectively, granddaughters, are now the twinkle in his eyes.

Mr. Taylor is looking forward to carrying on the ministry that Mr. Dudley worked so diligently to build up over the past eight years. "I know that the task is great if I hope to carry on the legacy that Brother Dudley has left," stated Mr. Taylor.



OFWB INTERNATIONAL

20TH MISSION CONFERENCE PALAWAN, PHILIPPINES

by The Reverend Nerie Peralta

"Till The Whole World Knows" was the theme of our Mission Conference held last October 26-27, 2004 at Palawan, Philippines. There were about two hundred in attendance. Our lecturers challenged our workers about missions and church planting. The afternoon session was our planning time. All workers made their plans on how to grow and improve their ministry. The planning was focused on church membership, financial income, and church building improvement. The workers were challenged to set a goal for their ministry and work diligently each day to reach it. The pastors and workers enjoyed making

their plans with their delegates. We pray that God will help them accomplish these goals.

The second day was our Couples Seminar. It was designed to help both partners to understand their place in ministry. We discussed topics relating to the relationship between a husband and wife. Problems in the family are a hindrance to the ministry, but if there is harmony in the family, there is harmony in the ministry and growth will follow.

I observed during that time that they were happy discussing their role in the ministry and their role in the family. God began to work in many families during this seminar. This will translate to stronger churches and stronger communities. The success of the Mission Conference is only by

the grace of God and the unity of all the workers. TO GOD BE THE GLORY!



DENIT FWB CHURCH BAPTISM SERVICE PALAWAN, PHILIPPINES

by The Reverend Dario Basingil



Baptism is a command for all believers to obey as stated in Matthew 28:19, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

On August 30, 2004, the Denit Free Will Baptist Church held a baptismal service, with the Rev. Pio dela Rosa officiating. There were four candidates who committed their lives to the Lord. They are faithful in service and worship. Arturo Mosocol is their pastor. He faithfully works hard on this island. Let's pray together for these new converts' spiritual maturity.

THANK YOU FOR GIVING!



Baby Viñas, the daughter of Bobby and Lenny Viñas. Lenny is a kindergarten teacher at the San Jose Free Will Baptist Church in Palawan, Philippines. Baby Viñas suffered from malnutrition and the parents could not afford to purchase the vitamins she needed. Praise the Lord for our brethren in North Carolina

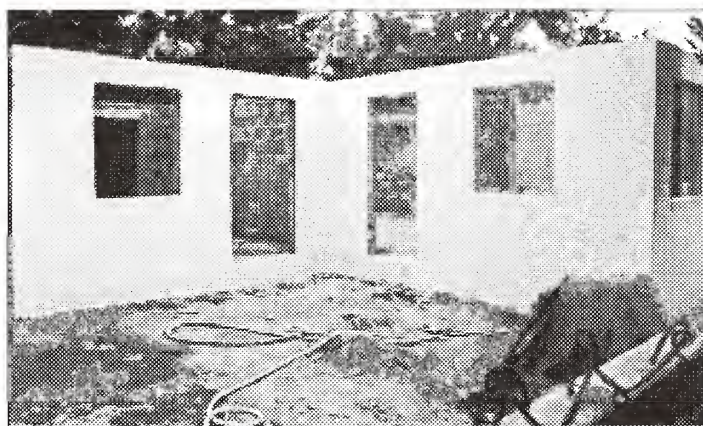
for helping meet this need. She is now in good health and still taking vitamins. We thank God for all of you.

THANK YOU FROM MR. AND MRS. AGUIRRE FLOOD VICTIMS IN PIEDRAS, NEGRAS, MEXICO



Greetings in the name of our Lord. I hope you are doing well in the love of Christ. I thank you for all your help. I thank the Lord for you in North Carolina and for all the brothers and sisters in Mexico who helped us during our time of tragedy. I do not have words to express my thankfulness for your moral and economic support.

Mr. and Mrs. Aguirre lost their house in the April 4, 2004, flood in Piedras Negras, Mexico. Because of your generous response, they will soon move into a completely new house. God bless all of you who prayed and gave to make it possible to help them and others recover from this tragedy.



**DON'T FORGET!
ANNUAL TELETHON
SUNDAY**

MARCH 20, 2005

1:30-5:30 P.M.

Please help us reach our goal!

ANNUAL WORLD MISSIONS CONFERENCE

Sunday, February 20, 2005

College Hall, Mount Olive College

5–8 P.M.

*Sponsored by the Board of Foreign Missions
OFWB International*

Guests: Willem and Lydia Van der Plas
Missionaries to Eastern Europe



Schedule:

First Session—5 P.M.

Light Meal—6 P.M.

Final Session—7 P.M.

IMPORTANT NOTICE—RESPONSE NEEDED

A light meal will be served, at no charge, but in order to prepare the proper amount of food we need to know how many will be attending from each church. Please call our office (252) 746-4963 by **Tuesday, February 15**, and give the church name and the number that will be attending. (If no one is in the office, please leave the information on the answering machine.)

SPECIAL NOTE: Willem and Lydia will be in North Carolina for a short time and will only be able to visit a limited number of churches. We encourage all of you to mark this date on your calendar and attend the Mission Conference. This will be a great way to show your support for these dear missionaries. This will be an exciting time of fellowship, worship, and music. Plan now to attend.

FOREIGN MISSIONS ANNUAL TELETHON

SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 2005

THEME: "The Cross—The Empty Tomb—The Message"

THEME VERSE:

...I am the resurrection, and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live " (John 11:25).

GOAL: A total of \$185,000 in gifts on Telethon Sunday

DAY OF PRAYER FOR REVIVAL AND WORLD MISSIONS
MARCH 20, 2005

PRAYER GOAL 2005:

All churches joining together in united prayer
during the Worship Hour on March 20, 2005.

LET US PRAY!



Call
(252) 746-4963

Sunday, March 20

1:30–5:30 P.M.

With Your
Special Offering!



REAPING THE HARVEST

by Convention Executive Committee

As we close out our 5-year theme of "Responding to the Call," we focus this abbreviated year on "Reaping the Harvest." In Luke 10:2 Jesus tells His disciples, *...the harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few; pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest.* Why is the harvest so great? Because people are lost! They need the Lord, and He is ready for them. Matthew 18:11 says, *For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.* 1 John 4:14 says that Jesus came to be the Savior of the world.

The point is that there are multiplied millions of people living in heathen nations, following false religious leaders and their teachings that need the freedom only Christ can give. But there is also the person next door who lives their life quietly dying without the hope of Heaven. Luke 10:2 strongly suggests that these "next door" people number in the multitudes all around us...and they need to be harvested. All that is needed is for someone, like you and me, who will do the picking. This New Testament concept is even more true in our world today. Researcher George Barna found that while 65 percent of Americans attend church with some degree of regularity (at least once a month), more than 70 percent of attendees could not confirm their salvation. While we send and support missionaries around the world, who is going to "harvest" those in the house next door?

Rather than discuss our often feeble and failed attempts at soul-winning, let's take a look at how Jesus instructed His disciples in Luke 10. First, notice that the seventy were sent in pairs to all the cities and villages that Jesus desired to visit (v. 1). Their purpose was to prepare the people for His coming. Second, He verbally prepared them for a difficult experience (vv. 3-4) by instructing them to be peaceful even in

the face of uncertainty and possible danger. Third, Jesus insisted that the seventy be friendly and mild-mannered wherever they went (vv. 5-9). However, Jesus also said not to tarry with those who would not receive them, but "shake the dust off" and move on (vv. 10-11), after reminding the unbelievers of their opportunity to touch the Kingdom of God.

Let's face reality—there are those who will be saved and those who will not be saved. It is not our responsibility to pry open their hearts, pour Jesus in and then stitch them up again. Rather, we are to allow our words, our deeds, and our lifestyle to paint a portrait of Jesus that others can see and enjoy. Then when Christ comes near to those who have witnessed Him in us, our prayer is that they will reach out to Him. Our responsibility is to prepare the soil of an unsaved heart through

proper spiritual cultivation so that when the Lord of the harvest comes to the field, a new soul can be picked by the Master.

The Apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians 3:9, "For we are labourers together with God...." Our responsibility is plain. As committed Christians, we are to become followers of Christ and fishers of men (see Matthew 4:19). That means we are to labor in the field of men's souls, giving to them what Christ has given to us—the opportunity to become sons of God. This is not the work of the professional clergy only. All who profess Jesus as Lord are called to share the love of Christ with all who will listen. Don't expect someone else to do what you are unwilling to do yourself. Pray to the Lord of the harvest that He will send us as laborers into His fields—and may we reap the harvest together.

REMINDER

The Convention of Original Free Will Baptists will convene on its new date, May 17-19, 2005, at Mount Olive College. Mark your calendar and plan to attend.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Reverend Buddy Sasser
has been named Director of Convention Services.

The Executive Committee of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists announce the hiring of the Rev. Buddy Sasser as Director of Convention Services on November 22, 2004. This position was formerly known as *General Administrator*. Mr. Sasser will begin full-time duties on January 3, 2005.

Mr. Sasser comes to this position from a pastorate at Westside Church, Kinston. He has served on the Convention Executive Committee and the Eastern Conference Examining Board.

Please pray for Mr. Sasser, the Executive Committee, and our Convention and all of its ministries.

The Rev. Fred Baker, *Convention President*
The Rev. Charles Renfrow, *Convention Secretary*



YEAR OF CELEBRATION *"65 Years of Service"*

As early as 1893, the Cape Fear Conference voted to adopt FWB "Sabbath" school literature for use in our churches. Further records indicate that formalized emphasis on Sunday School work began as early as 1921, just 8 years after the establishment of the North Carolina State Convention of Free Will Baptists. After many years of "peaks and valleys," there seemed to be a need to revive the state-wide work for the Sunday School and the North Carolina State Sunday School Convention was formally established in September of 1940, by recommendation of the NC State Convention. In 1989 the Sunday School Convention was dissolved and became the Sunday School Board, the tenth ministry of the Convention. After studying the efforts of church leaders during the 1920s, it would seem that 2005 is the year to celebrate Sunday Schools in the Original Free Will Baptist Denomination.

Tips for beginning a new year in Sunday School:

- Maintain beliefs in the eternal standards and values in the Scriptures.
- Retain or regain your commitment to God.
- Review the Original Free Will Baptist Doctrine.
- Keep a positive attitude.
- Expect great, but realistic, things to happen.
- Spend time looking at what you got rather than what you didn't get.
- Maintain a sense of humor.
- Take time to think.
- Inspire rather than impress.
- Let change be your ally rather than your enemy.
- Before you criticize, be ready to provide an alternative.
- Learn from the past; be ready to learn from and adapt to the present; prepare and plan for the future.
- Sunday School workers should be Faithful, Available, and Trainable.

For information or assistance with your Sunday School, contact:

Mary M. Dudley
OFWB Sunday School Ministry
P.O. Box 39
Ayden, NC 28513
Telephone: (252) 746-4963
<director@ofwbsundayschool.org>



APPRECIATION CELEBRATION INVITATION

The Board of Directors of Cragmont Assembly cordially invite you to attend an Appreciation Dinner honoring John and Arlinda Williams for twenty-five years of dedicated service and love to Cragmont.

There will be two dinner celebrations. The first will be Friday, March 18, 2005 at Elm Grove Church in Ayden and the second will be Saturday, March 19, 2005 at Everett Chapel Church in Clayton. Both events will begin at 7 P.M.

The purpose of these dinners is to allow Free Will Baptists to come and express their appreciation to John and Arlinda for twenty-five years of service and commitment to Cragmont. John and Arlinda request no gifts for themselves—only your presence. We do invite you to express your thanks to them by bringing a special love gift for Cragmont.

The cost per person for the meal is \$5. Fill out the R.S.V.P. below and return to Bryant Hines, Planning and Marketing Director, 203 Teachey Court, New Bern, NC 28562 as soon as possible. Deadline for reservations is March 1, 2005. Please register early as space is limited. We look forward to seeing you!

CELEBRATION RESERVATION REQUEST

(Detach and return)

Name _____

Please Indicate Which Night and Place

Address _____

____ Friday, March 18 at
Elm Grove Church in Ayden.

City, State, Zip _____

____ Saturday, March 19 at
Everett Chapel in Clayton.

Telephone () _____

Total Number Attending (please enclose \$5 per person payable to Cragmont) _____



**Make Plans
Now
to Join us for
this year's
Cragmont
Christmas
December 1-4, 2005**

PASTORS/ DEACONS ENRICHMENT SEMINAR 2005

April 21-23 are the dates for our second enrichment seminar. Dr. David Hines will again lead this seminar with "Serving Through Leadership" as the theme. This second retreat will be a meaningful continuation of the material shared in 2004 as well as a tremendous opportunity for first time participants. The schedule is planned for a Thursday night arrival, seminars on Friday morning and evening (afternoon free), and Saturday morning. The seminar concludes with lunch on Saturday. Churches are encouraged to send both pastor and deacons by covering the \$85 seminar cost (includes three nights lodging and five meals. Cost if staying in the dorm is \$70). Fill out the registration form below and return as soon as possible. Payment is due upon arrival. Register soon! This event will fill quickly.

Pastors/Deacons Enrichment Seminar 2005 (Detach and return)

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone () _____

Room Preference: Main Building

Upstairs _____

Downstairs _____ Motel _____

Dorm _____

(Room assignments filled on a first received basis)

Return to: Cragmont Assembly, 1233
North Fork Road, Black Mountain, NC
28711.

Bryant Hines, Cragmont's Planning and Marketing Director, is currently scheduling his church calendar for 2005. If you would like to have him visit your church, group, or organization to share the view and vision of Cragmont, please call him at (252) 637-7171 or e-mail <bryanthines5@aol.com>.

CRAGMONT COOK-OFF 2005

Participation in the 2004 cook-off more than doubled our initial year of 2003. Twenty churches raised \$16,500 for Cragmont. NOW is the time to plan your cook-off for 2005.

The concept of our cook-off is simple. Every FWB Church knows about having a dinner or selling plates to raise money. We're very good at it, and most of our current church facilities were built with funds raised by having dinners. Cragmont asks for a day—just one dinner or sale sometime during the year—from each church. You have your menu, your prices—you know your people and community. Commit this one dinner to Cragmont and send us the proceeds. The key to the success of our cook-off is PARTICIPATION. Many churches having one dinner equals great success. Plan now to have a dinner for Cragmont during 2005.

Contact Bryant Hines at (252) 637-7171 if you have questions or need further information.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE 2005

April 1-3

Morning Star

April 21-23

Pastor/Deacons Enrichment

June 6-11

June Women's Conference

June 13-18

Cragmont Youth Conference

June 20-25

Christian Cadet Conference

June 27-July 2

AFC/YFA Conference

July 4-9

Bed, Breakfast, and Blessing

July 11-16

General Youth Conference II

July 18-23

General Youth Conference I

July 25-30

Young People's Bible Conference

August 1-6

August Women's Conference

September 12-15

Minister's Conference

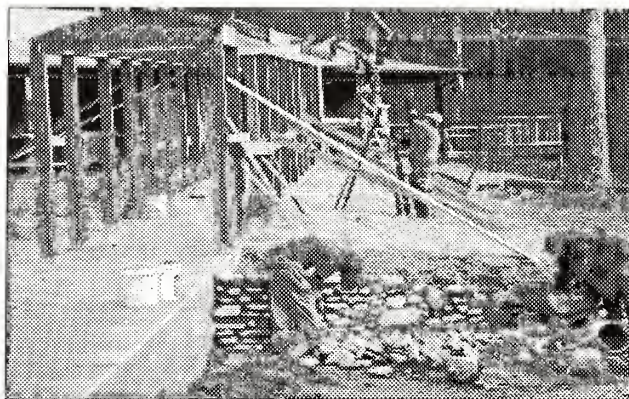
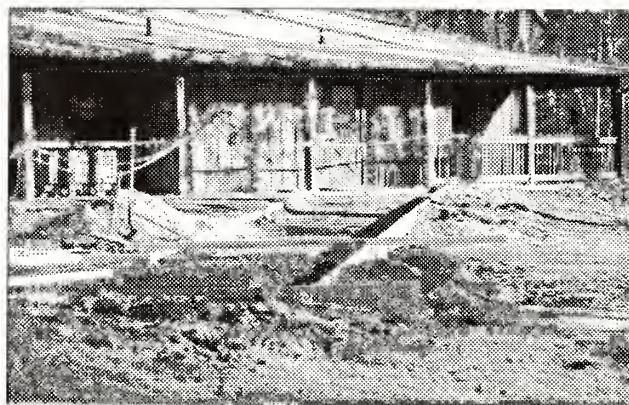
October 17-20

Fall Festival of Gospel Music

December 1-4

Christmas at Cragmont

THE JOURNEY BEGINS



The vision of our New Heights Campaign officially began its journey as construction on our covered walkway between the main building and the dining hall began the second week in November. The walkway is scheduled for completion before Christmas and construction of the roof over the dining hall deck will immediately follow. The next scheduled structure will be a new housing facility to add much needed bed space to the mountain. Continue to pray for our New Heights Campaign.



HARVEST COVENANT PROGRAM

The declining attendance in our churches and Sunday Schools should call our attention to the fact that our people are not receiving what they desire from our worship and educational programs. Do we know where to begin to turn the declining church into a functioning and growing church?

Each Original Free Will Baptist Church could pinpoint its strengths and weaknesses. Not any of our churches are good at everything. However, all of our churches can improve our worship services, Christian educational methods, and outreach ministry.

The HARVEST COVENANT program is designed to help our churches find the unique opportunities for developing a functioning, growing church, for the cause of the Kingdom.

Our people, in every congregation, youth and adults alike, desire a meaningful faith. Through this HARVEST COVENANT program, everyone who becomes involved, will discover what the church is really about, thus giving a new appreciation for sharing the Christian experience.

From the discovered experience, the excitement of personal participation will cause a declining church to awake to a newness of Christian love and concern, for the local church, and those in the community where the church serves.

Everyone who participates in the HARVEST COVENANT process will be drawn closer to one another—and to our Lord. You will find yourself drawn closer as you develop ways for improving your worship, Bible study, and educational and outreach ministry. You will feel the closeness of our Lord as you develop His church into a functioning and growing congregation. A united effort will automatically form as you discover the real mission God intends for your church.

Not anyone can determine the outcome of the HARVEST COVENANT program, but you can readily be

assured what you experience through the process, will last a lifetime.

HARVEST COVENANT takes church growth to a new level—those who participate will develop skills of working, sharing, and growing in Christian love.

Purpose/Objectives of The HARVEST COVENANT PROGRAM

By training and follow-through, your church will:

- discover the true mission of the church.
- develop outreach ministries.
- reverse the declining situation.
- draw closer to each other and the Lord.
- gain lifelong experiences.
- understand why we serve.
- learn about discipleship.

DEFINITION: COVENANT—Agreement, Promise, Verifying, Approving, Endorsing (The state of being in accord)

The Harvest Connection program has three phases. Phase I is committed to developing a congregation for **EXPANDING HIS KINGDOM**. Our team will strive to lead and direct this process in a firm Christian attitude as we respond to the particular needs of the

membership. Phase II is committed to developing a congregation in all aspects of ministry. Training is emphasized for all workers, officers, boards, and committees under full direction of the Board of Home Missions and Evangelism in conjunction with the local conference. Those small congregations that are at a standstill will definitely need this assistance. Phase III is when a congregation can no longer continue, then they can determine to revert to mission status through the Board of Home Missions and Evangelism in conjunction with the local conference.

Today there are two churches under the Harvest Covenant program. Daly's Chapel, LaGrange, NC is a member of the Cape Fear conference and is under Phase II. Free Spirit of Wilson, NC is a member of the Western Conference and is under Phase III.

On Monday evening, November 15, 2004, following our Board Meeting, the Rev. Bobby Futrell was commissioned as Director/Pastor of the Free Spirit Mission Church.

Any church interested in the Harvest Covenant program may contact Home Missions and Evangelism by calling (252) 746-4963 or e-mail <assistant@ofwbhomemissions.org> or writing to Executive Director, P.O. Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513.



Mrs. Edith Futrell, The Reverend Bobby Futrell, The Reverend David C. Hansley, and Mr. Howard McPherson.



The Reverend and Mrs. Bobby Futrell

TIME FOR RECOGNITION



Mrs. Retha Lane (left) with the Rev. Tongva Xion (right) and his wife (middle).

Home Missions and Evangelism has worked with the Lao Evangelical Church of America for many years, and it is now time to recognize the great work that has been completed.

Home Missions has assisted the Lao Evangelical Church in many different ways from their beginning in the United States. We have helped the local churches with seminars to teach church growth; guided them in church organization and discipline; and assisted the youth program by sharing the expenses for two youth camps—one in Twain Hart, California, and another at Cragmont.

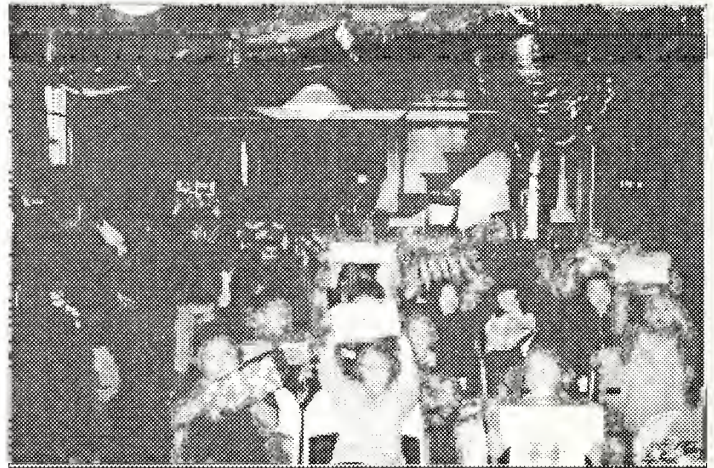
In the months to follow, a different Lao Evangelical Church will be featured so you can appreciate the great work that has helped to advance the cause of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Remember, you and others are assets to this great work.

This month's feature church is the Lao Evangelical Church of Albemarle, NC. The Rev. Tongva Xion is the pastor. He has served this congregation for seven years. Two months ago, the congregation moved into a church building. Before this move, they were meeting in Tongva's house. The Albemarle church has nine families or about 45 in attendance.

Home Missions and Evangelism and the Lao Evangelical Church are "Touching Lives for a Lifetime."



The Rev. Tongva Xion and his wife with Kids Kare boxes for their church.



The children at Lao Evangelical Church of Albemarle, NC, were excited to receive their Kids Kare boxes.

Harvest Covenant—A New Program to Help the Struggling Church



The Harvest Covenant program was created to offer the small and/or struggling congregation some help in finding ways to become the Church Christ would have it become, to enable it to once again "Magnify the Name of the Lord."

With the Harvest Covenant program your church can move from a declining situation to a growing functioning congregation as your people:

- DISCOVER the true mission of the Church
- DEVELOP outreach ministries
- REVERSE the declining situation
- DRAW closer to each other and to the Lord
- GAIN lifelong experiences
- UNDERSTAND why we serve
- LEARN about discipleship

REMEMBER—

No church has to stay in a declining state, waiting to disappear. With faith, commitment, and hard work any church can become the Church Christ called it to be.

Let Us Help!

Contact: Home Missions and Evangelism
P.O. Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513-0039
Telephone: (252) 746-4963

FRIENDS OF CHILDREN'S DAY CELEBRATED

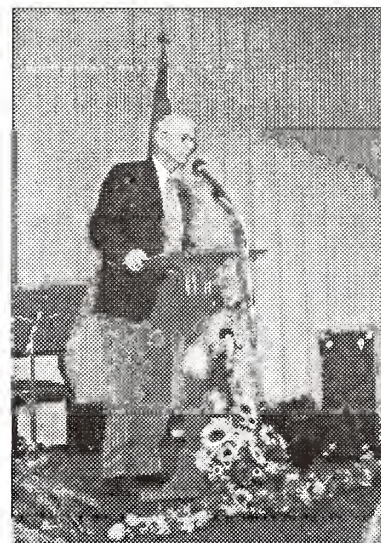
On November 20, we hosted many of our friends, as we celebrated Friends of Children Day. It was our way, although small, to acknowledge the generous support that we receive throughout the year.

The day was kicked off with a meal catered by Wilbur's Barbecue, Goldsboro. The invocation was given by our pastor. The Rev. Lester Duncan, and the welcome was given by the Rev. Phillip Boykin, president of the Board of Directors. During lunch, we enjoyed music in song by "HIS," from Antioch Church, Goldsboro, NC; also during the program they performed their heartfelt message in song.

Special recognition was given to our pastor, Lester Duncan, and his dear wife, Mrs. Nancy, for their many years of faithful dedicated service to the Home.

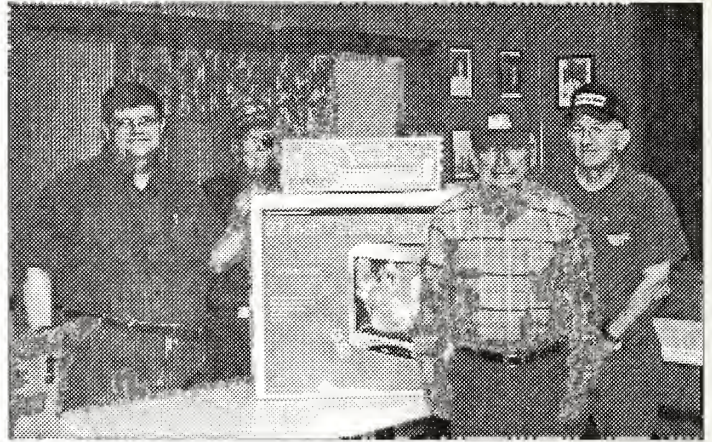
The message was brought by the Rev. Frank Harrison. Taken from 1 Corinthians, Mr. Harrison reminded us that God equipped all of us for success, not failure—as we were created in *His* own image. He closed by pointing out that God has empowered us with the ability to overcome the things of this world and become successful, we all have the power of choice, which helps determine our future.

We extend our thanks to everyone who helped make this day a success.



A LABOR OF LOVE...

On November 23, the Children's Home was visited by three members of Gum Swamp Church Layman's League, and their pastor, Kevin Jackson. They brought with them six computer desks, tools to put them together, a 27 inch TV, and a VCR/DVD combo. They spent the day with us as they assembled the desks.



We certainly appreciate the gifts and the hard work from the members of Gum Swamp Church.

We've had several campus visits and parties that we can't wait to share with you in upcoming issues. Thanks to all who helped the FWB Children's Home have a wonderful holiday, and we plan to get the pictures in with our campus Christmas pictures in the February issue.



MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

ACADEMIC COMPLEX TO BE NAMED FOR FORMER PRESIDENT AND WIFE



Dr. and Mrs. Raper look at a rendering of the academic complex that will one day bear their names.

Tears filled the eyes of a speechless Dr. W. Burkette Raper as Darrell Horne, chairman of the Board of Trustees, announced that the College's new academic complex would be named for the former president and his wife, Rose M. Raper. The announcement was made on the College's 53rd Founders Day Celebration in a retirement luncheon hosted by the Board of Trustees for Dr. and Mrs. Raper's 50 years of service to the institution.

"The Board of Trustees unanimously agreed that it was a fitting tribute to name the academic complex in honor of the Rapers' lifetime commitment to Christian higher education at Mount Olive College," Horne stated. "Their names will forever be linked with this institution in which they have helped to mold and shape into what it is today," he continued.

Dr. Raper expressed his and Mrs. Rose's feelings of appreciation, "Rose and I were deeply moved by the announcement of Chairman Horne that the Board of Trustees had decided to honor us with the naming of the forthcoming Academic Complex. This idea had never entered our minds—

(Continued on next page)

we were totally surprised. We understand that this building will be the flagship for the next phase of campus development, and we will always cherish the sense of appreciation for our fifty years at the College which the naming of this building represents."

"We also appreciate the vision and creative leadership of Dr. Byrd to advance Mount Olive College to the forefront of Christian higher education in the twenty-first century," Raper continued.

Dr. J. William Byrd, president of Mount Olive College, noted Dr. Raper's association with the College was a "pilgrimage." "It is impossible to separate the life of Burkette Raper from the life of Mount Olive College," Byrd stated. "His is a story of inspiration and perspiration, a story of triumph and struggle. It is a story of vision and determination and a story of faith and courage. I am not sure how much he could have known at the young age of 26 about leading a college, even more how much he could have known about building one from scratch. But he came here with inspiration, vision, commitment, determination, courage, and faith. And his record speaks for itself." It was the summer of 1954 with \$6.17 in the treasury for higher education

that the Free Will Baptist denomination began searching for a leader of their fledgling Christian college. They found that leader in the Rev. W. Burkette Raper, then pastor of Hull Road Free Will Baptist Church. When appointed president at the age of 26, Dr. Raper was the youngest college president in the United States; when he retired in 1995, he had the distinction of being the current longest-tenured president in the country.

During his forty years as president, Dr. Raper left his mark on the College through his leadership style and deep commitment to the Free Will Baptist Church and its role in higher education. He guided the development of the College from a two-year institution with an enrollment of 22 students in an abandoned school building to an accredited senior college with modern facilities on a more than 100 acre campus. In 1995 he retired from the presidency and worked in this capacity for 9 years, making a total of 50 years of service to the College.

Equally important has been the role of Dr. Raper's wife, Rose. In the words of many, she has been the epitome of a helpmate to her husband. To students she has been loving, kind and courteous...an encourager. Many

times she canvassed the local area to find housing for married couples attending the College. She was the one who brought snow cream when it snowed or cooked an extra meal for someone in need. According to Jean F. Ackiss, director of Church Support who worked with Dr. Raper for 39 years, many of which as his secretary, remarked, "Mrs. Raper has been the tower of strength for Dr. Raper. She has been an involved and an active participant in the growth of the College in an unassuming manner."

The academic complex which will bear the Raper's names is the premier facility in the College's current building campaign. At 46,218 square feet, the facility will double the College's current classroom space, housing the School of Business, Agribusiness Center, and Department of Science and Mathematics. Within the same two-story building will be a 500-person regional conference center for hosting conferences, forums, training meetings, and workshops. The complex will offer students modern classrooms and laboratories, providing resources to further develop business and science-oriented curricula and, ultimately, provide space for graduate education in business.

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE HONORS EMPLOYEES AT FOUNDERS DAY

Mount Olive College honored 31 employees and celebrated 53 years of providing Christian higher education at its annual Founders Day Worship Service.

Faculty, staff, students, and friends from Free Will Baptist churches filled College Hall to hear Dr. W. Burkette Raper deliver the Founders Day address.

When appointed president of Mount Olive College in 1954 at the age of 26, Dr. Raper was the youngest college president in the United States; when he retired in 1995, he had the distinction of being the current longest-tenured president in the country. From 1995-2004 Dr. Raper

served as director of planned giving, making a total of 50 years of service to the College.

During the service, Dr. J. William Byrd, president of the College, recognized faculty and staff for their continued dedicated efforts to Mount Olive College. He presented each with a gift engraved with the College seal. The award recipients were as follows:

Five Years (1999-2004)

Dr. Lloyd R. Bailey, Sr.—Barrow Professor of Religious Studies
Ms. Machel O. Bass—College Counselor
Mr. William G. Canuette, Jr.—Associate Director, Institutional Research & Planning

Ms. B. Lynn Cherry—Administrative Assistant, Academic Support
Ms. Brenda L. Edwards—Administrative Assistant, Alumni Relations
Ms. Rhonda E. Jessup—Director of Public Affairs
Ms. Cindy L. Mitchell—Housekeeping
Dr. Bruce P. Powers IV—Social Science—Psychology
Mr. Robert R. Pruett—Director, Information Technology
Dr. Jerry G. Sheppard—Social Sciences—History, Language & Literature—English
Mr. Michael G. Warning—Director of Graphic Arts, MOC Press

(Continued on next page)

Mr. Ricky D. Williams—Housekeeping
Ms. Gwendolyn D. Williamson—
Evening Supervisor, Food Services

Ten Years (1994–2004)

Dr. Richard C. Boyd—Religion, New
Bern
Dr. Allen M. Cassell—Director of
Athletics
Ms. Rose H. Darden—Evening
Supervisor—Food Services
Dr. Gregory A. Day—Campus
Minister
Ms. Vickie S. Robinson—Associate
Director of Admissions
Mr. T. Gordon Wall—Manager of
Food Services

Fifteen Years (1989–2004)

Ms. Julie R. Beck—Director of
Student Activities

Mr. Carson Lane—Buildings and
Grounds
Dr. Kazi M. Rahman—Science &
Mathematics—Chemistry
Mr. Bobby G. Smith—Special
Events/Utility Employee
Ms. Brenda W. Sutton—Day
Supervisor for Food Services
Ms. Margaret P. Wells—Secretary,
Business Office

Twenty Years (1984–2004)

Ms. Linda S. Greenwood—Director,
Career Center
Ms. Sonya F. McCoy—School of
Business

Twenty-five Years (1979–2004)

Dr. Opey D. Jeanes—VP for Special
Services/Director, Goldsboro
Dr. A. Pepper Worthington—Editor,
Mount Olive College Press

Forty Years (1964–2004)

Mr. Herman Jones—Housekeeping

Fifty Years (1954–2004)

Dr. W. Burkette Raper—Director,
Planned Giving/President Emeritus

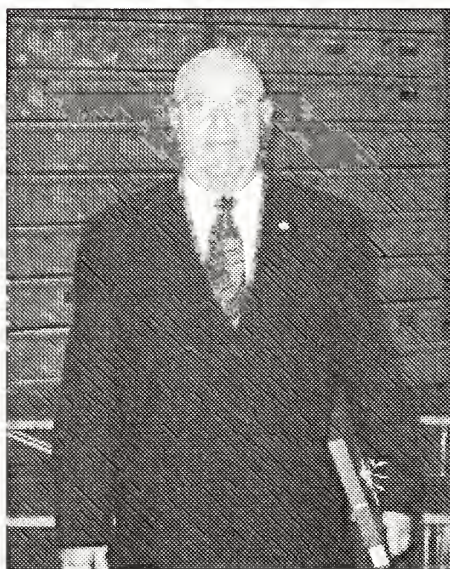
Board of Trustee Members recognized for 6 years of service

H. M. Poythress
K. David Brame, Jr.
Carol W. Hawkins

Following the Founders Day Ceremony in College Hall, the Mount Olive College Board of Trustees held a luncheon honoring Dr. Raper and Mrs. Raper for their 50 years of service to the College.



Twenty Years—Sonya McCoy



Twenty-five Years—Opey Jeanes



Fifty Years—Dr. W. Burkette Raper

VISITATION DAY TO BE HELD

Mount Olive College will host a Visitation Day on Monday, January 17 starting at 9 A.M. High School students and parents will have the opportunity to tour the campus, meet professors and students, attend admissions and financial aid workshops, audition for music and art scholarships, and get information about NCAA Division II athletics eligibility. The formal activities of the day will end after lunch unless the students are auditioning or meeting with coaches. Please feel free to contact Jennifer Merritt, Assistant Director of Admissions, at (800) 653-0854 or <jmerritt@moc.edu> with any questions or to register for the event.

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE'S
22ND Annual Basketball
Church Night
Saturday, February 19, 2005



Special recognition
to the church
with the largest attendance!
Drawing for Door Prizes!
Half-time activities
for all ages!
Lady Trojans vs.
Anderson College
5 P.M., College Hall

Trojans vs. Anderson College
7 P.M., College Hall

Special Tickets \$1.00

To reserve your tickets, call
Tim Woodard in the
Admissions office today!
(919) 658-2502 or
(800) 653-0854

NEED HELP?
FAFSA DAY 2005

If you need assistance completing your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), we can help!

Join us Saturday, February 19, from 9 A.M.-12 NOON at Mount Olive College. Registration for this event will be in the Henderson Building Lobby.

To attend, please register online at <www.cfnc.org>. For more information about this event at Mount Olive College, please contact Tim Woodard in admissions at (919) 658-2502 or (800) 653-0854.

Sponsored by CFI, the North Carolina Education Assistance Authority and Mount Olive College.

**SENIOR CITIZENS VISIT
MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE**



During the fall Johnny Sullivan, pastor of Daniels Chapel Church near Wilson brought a group from their Golden Age Club to visit the College. Jean F. Ackiss, Director of Church Support, and Jeff Daughtry, Assistant Director of Planned Giving, hosted the group for lunch and gave them a tour of the campus. Shown at the Alumni Crosswalk are (left to right) Audrey Cayton, Howard Cayton, Grace Bennett, Pastor Johnny Sullivan, Pearl Bass, and Joyce Walls.

Any group who desires to tour the campus should contact Jean F. Ackiss at (919) 658-7744 or (800) 653-0854.

DON'T FORGET!
CAMPUS VISITATION DAY
JANUARY 17, 2005
9 A.M.

DAUGHTRY NAMED DIRECTOR OF PLANNED GIVING



The Rev. Jeff Daughtry of La Grange assumed the duties of director of planned giving at Mount Olive College on December 1, 2004. Daughtry has served the College in the Office of Planned Giving for the past four years as assistant director and moved into the position of director following the retirement of Dr. W. Burkette Raper.

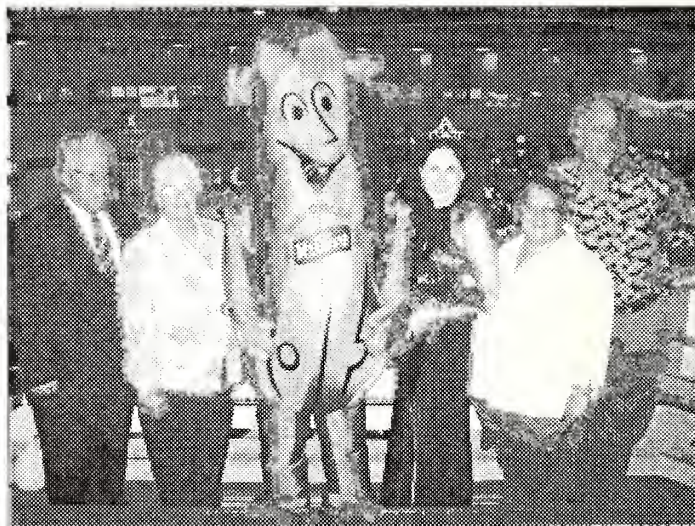
As a key fundraiser within the Office of Institutional Advancement, Daughtry will oversee the expansion of the College's endowment and planned giving program.

"An effective planned giving program is critical to a successful development operation and provides tremendous opportunities and longevity for an institution. I know with Jeff's strong relationships with the community and his deep commitment to the mission of Mount Olive College that he will thrive in this new position," stated Becky Herring Mitchell, vice president for institutional advancement.

Daughtry's connection to Mount Olive College began when he enrolled as a student. He earned his associate's degree in 1978 and his bachelor's degree in business administration from Barton College in 1980. He is currently pursuing a master of trust and investment management degree at Campbell University. He plans to graduate in December 2005.

While attending Mount Olive College, Daughtry met his future wife, Wanda Russell (Class of '79). They have three children: Joy Daughtry Hill, a 2004 graduate of Mount Olive College; and Daniel and Amy Daughtry, both current students at Mount Olive College. Mr. Jeff Daughtry and his family have attended Westside Church in Kinston since 1992.

BENSON CROWNED PICKLE CLASSIC QUEEN



Pickle Classic Queen, Samantha Benson, celebrates with her family.

Samantha Benson of Newport was crowned Pickle Classic Queen during the 39th annual Pickle Classic Festival. She joins the ranks of over 30 Pickle Classic Queens who have come before her. A fellow Mount Olive College student, Michael Jarman of LaGrange, was crowned Pickle Classic King.

Benson, a junior English education major, is the president of the Prospective Teacher's Association, and a member of the Student Government Association. She is the daughter of Richard and Pamela Benson, and she attends Silver Creek Church.

The Pickle Classic King and Queen will represent Mount Olive College at the NC Pickle Festival, the Mount Olive Christmas Parade and the Jump Rope for Heart Program at Eastern Wayne Elementary School among other functions.

"I felt honored to be chosen by the Mount Olive Jaycees as someone to represent Mount Olive College as their Queen. I was speechless and overjoyed. This is truly an experience I will never forget," Benson stated.

FWB STUDENTS ATTEND VISITATION DAY

Eighteen Original Free Will Baptist high school students recently attended a visitation day at the College. Those shown are (left to right – front row) Brianna Whaley, Sandy Plain Church; Shanna Hill, Wintergreen Church; Roxi Kennedy, Sandy Plain Church; Lauren Cooke, Westside Church; Kristen Knowles, Long Ridge Church; Jessi Kennedy, Whaley's Chapel Church; Ashley Edwards, St. Mary's Church (Kenly); Ashley Walston, Piney Grove Church (Kenly); Melinda Gonzalez, Wintergreen Church. Second Row: Jordan Lewis, Davis Church; George Mitchell, Rains Crossroads Church; Bryan Caroon, Mt. Zion Church (Vandemere); John Newcomb, Marsh Swamp Church; Crystal Guy, Powhatan Church; Coleen Smith, Living Waters Church; Jake Bunn, Pleasant Hill Church (Pikeville); Michael Wheeler, Sandy Plain Church.



CAMP VANDEMERE

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Happy 2005. I hope everyone is excited about what our Lord is going to do this year. The Bible says the sheep hear the shepherd's voice, so please listen to the Lord so you know what He wants you to do this year. Please pray for the Camp in the upcoming year, and include us on your prayer list and your church prayer list.

2004 ANNUAL SPECKLED TROUT FISHING TOURNAMENT

Camp Vandemere would like to thank all of those who participated in the Speckled Trout Fishing Tournament.

Congratulations to Wayne Buck and Debbie for winning First Place in the Team Category; and Sam Tyson and Billy Moyer for winning Second Place in the Team Category.

Congratulations to Billy Moyer for winning First Place in the Biggest Fish Category; and Robbie Dail for winning Second Place in Biggest Fish Category.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 21—Second Annual Gospel Sing/Open House
2005 Summer Camp—Look for the schedule in *The Free Will Baptist*

August 19-20—Annual Singin' By the River

****Please invite the Camp Manager to your church for a camp presentation/slide show.** Wesley Taylor, Camp Manager (252) 745-3171 (office), (252) 634-1287 (pager), (252) 514-3222 (cell).

****Camp Vandemere challenges 20 churches to pledge \$1,000 for a 40x80 all purpose shelter for the camp grounds.** This building will be used for our annual Singin' By the River, and for anyone who wants to sit and enjoy the view. The building will be an open structure with picnic tables, rocking chairs, and swings.

****Please support Camp Vandemere by putting us in your church budget.** Without the funds, Camp Vandemere cannot grow.

****Starting January 2005, Camp Vandemere will be providing full linens for all of our campers.** The new prices will be: Dorms—\$12 per night, Lodge—\$45 per night, week of camp—\$85 per child.

PEOPLE & EVENTS

A FALL CELEBRATION

At Wintergreen Church we are seeking to encourage a family-oriented community. Just such an example of family entertainment and community was expressed recently as we celebrated our Fall Festival 2004. We had a variety of games, such as football toss, treasure hunt, bingo, miniature golf, and many others. We also enjoyed popcorn, cotton candy, hot dogs, potato chips, drinks, and other refreshments. More importantly, however, we had a multitude of people which came out to share with us in this celebration. The most exciting part of this for our church was that many of these families are un-churched families.

Statistics show that people are more likely to come to church with a friend. We believe that this was an excellent opportunity for us to start to develop relationships with these un-churched people in order to befriend them so that God may kindle in them the desire to know Jesus Christ as Lord and, therefore, to commit their life unto a path of discipleship.

We would like to issue special thanks to Home Missions and Evangelism for the use of their tent. We would also like to thank Paulette Rouse and Ann Simpson for coordinating all events along with thanks to countless church members who staffed the event, sacrificed, and worked so hard to make this unforgettable night possible.



HAPPY 2005 FROM POWHATAN!



Cragmont weekend group of 11 that went up October 29–31.

morning scoring, ribbons and awards were given to participants and state representatives for 2005. There were some excellent entries and everyone did a great job in expressing their talent for the Lord. Officers for 2005 were voted in and installed: Zack Tart, President; Crystal Guy, Vice-President; Nikki Jones, Recording Secretary; Leah Boykin, Corresponding Secretary; Amanda Johnson, Treasurer; and Anna Faircloth, Song Leader. Their hope for 2005 is to increase participation so other young people will be blessed by the fellowship. Most of the officers spent time together this past summer at Cragmont or on the Nashville Youth Mission Trip.

Cape Fear Churches—remember our first youth rally of the year falls on January 8 at St. Mary's Grove Church in Benson. Hope to see you there! And remember to register to attend Church Night at Mount Olive College in February.

Pastor Appreciation was celebrated on November 21 at Powhatan along with the Rev. Jim Bogle's birthday. He has served the Lord at Powhatan for about 8 years. He was "Citizen of the Day" on a local radio station on his birthday. He and his wife, Martha, were presented with a special "Thank you" bonus during the morning service on behalf of the congregation from Kerry Chestnut, chair of the deacon board.

That evening, a community singing was held at Everett Chapel (Western District) with Powhatan's groups participating in the fellowship. Over \$540 was raised from the four participating churches for CAM (Clayton Area Ministries) to help the needy in the community through the upcoming holidays.

A group of 11 from Powhatan joined together at Cragmont for a weekend of fellowship October 29–31. Aspen Grove Church of the Central District was also enjoying the weekend and included us in their planned chapel activities. The Bible trivia games were great by Sister Judy Moore. We were "tricked" by some of the games and "treated" to visitors in costumes after Saturday evening's devotion. We thank them for letting us share in their fun, and hope to join with them again in the future. John Williams brought us a short morning message during a service Sunday morning before we headed for home.

The Cape Fear Youth Fellowship had Arts & Crafts competitions on Saturday, November 6 at Robert's Grove Church.

At the evening rally following the



Martha Bogle, Kerry Chestnut, and the Rev. Jim Bogle on Pastor Appreciation Sunday.

PERUVIAN PASSION

High School Students Working to Make a Difference in Latin America

by Tara Dixon

(This article is reprinted, with permission, from The Shield magazine published by D. H. Conley High School in Pitt County. Tara is an active member of Black Jack Church in Greenville.)

Poverty, sickness, homelessness, and slavery are just some of the words that come to mind when someone mentions the phrase "third world country."

However, one group called Teen Mania Ministries is working all over the world to help fix problems that result from poor economy and distorted governments in these nations. While sharing their Christian faith with natives, missionaries from Teen Mania donate time, money, services, and facilities to underprivileged villages and communities.

Most adults will tell you the most interesting thing about Teen Mania is the age of its workers. The organization's home base in Garden Valley, Texas, is run by hundreds of interns living on campus. Most of them are right out of high school. They volunteer their time year around and in return are given a dorm room and free meals. Interns don't have it easy, their jobs are certainly rewarding.

Missionaries are also very young, sometimes starting at age eleven. Teenagers can volunteer for short term mission trips, two weeks, or a long term three months. On each trip, there is about a one to ten adult to teen ratio. Missionaries are responsible for raising their own money with trip prices starting at about \$1,500.

I went on my first trip to Costa Rica at age eleven and traveled to Jamaica

(Continued on next page)

during the summer of 2003. This summer I took a break and had the amazing opportunity to help sponsor fourteen year old Logan Mills on her trip to Lima, Peru.

Logan, a Christian at Black Jack OFWB Church, decided years ago that she wanted to devote her life to following Christianity, and she has always had a passion for the Latin American culture. When she heard about Teen Mania a few years ago, she knew it was for her.

Logan had to raise over \$2,000 for her trip to Peru, and she even ended up with \$300 extra! The hard times didn't end with money raising. In Peru, she endured three days of intense training, eight days with no shower, bad food, extreme weather, and many sleepless nights.

During her two weeks in Peru, she visited orphanages, marketplaces, churches, and homes. She played two roles in a musical drama and led worship at local Bible studies. She worked harder physically and emotionally than she ever has before, and she will tell you in a heartbeat that it was the most rewarding experience of her life.

So why should you care about Teen Mania or Logan Mill's trip to Peru? I believe we can all learn from Logan's passionate experience in Peru. We can all take notes from Logan and the Teen mania organization and recognize that teenagers can make a difference. We are powerful parts of the world, and we can take a stand for what we believe.

MOC PRESS PUBLISHES THE MUSIC OF DR. ALAN ARMSTRONG



The Mount Olive College Press has recently published Dr. Alan Armstrong's choral composition, *Festival Te Deum*. Dr. Armstrong is a Professor of Music at Mount Olive College. He received his BAR Ed. from Central Bible College, his M.M. from Bradley University, his BM. Ed. and Ph.D. from Ohio State University. Dr. Armstrong works with the music program at Kinston's Faith Fellowship Church.

The composition, *Festival Te Deum* is a choral piece written especially for the Mount Olive College Concert Choir in celebration of the 50th Anniversary Jubilee of Mount Olive College. The publication of the composition, available now for choirs, celebrates God. Armstrong's lyrics declare:

Cherubim and Seraphim unceasingly proclaim:

Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy.

Everlasting Father all creation worships You.

God Almighty, Heaven and earth are full

of the Majesty of Your glory.

The glorious choir of the Apostles,

the wonderful company of Prophets,

the white-robed army of Martyrs, praise You.

The Holy Church throughout the world

acknowledge You,

Mighty Father, O Christ,

You are the King of glory,

You are the Everlasting Son of the Father.

You overcame the sting of death, and opened up to us the gates of Heaven.

We beseech You, then, O Lord, Help Your servants that You have Redeemed

that they may be numbered with your saints in Everlasting glory.

Lord, we Praise You.

Lord, we Praise You.

Holy, Holy, Holy, Holy,

Lord, we Praise You.

Heaven and earth are full of the Majesty of Your Power, of Your Glory.

Great is the Lord Our God.

O God, we praise You, we acknowledge

You to be our Lord.

Everlasting Father all creation worships

You. To You all the angels, the

Heavens and all pow'rs,

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For more information about Dr. Armstrong's composition, contact Dr. Armstrong at (919) 658-7188 or the Mount Olive College Press at 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, North Carolina 28365.

SMYRNA CHURCH NEWS



Pictured following a skit entitled "Keepin' it Real" are puppeteers—1st row: Erin Parker (Gracie), Kayla Hickok (Lizzie) and Brittney Watson (Lola). 2nd row: Josh Johnson (the monkey Rafikki), Amanda Johnson (angel Tess) and Nathan Raynor who doubles as (parrott Nigel) and (George).

The puppeteers perform each third Sunday night as a part of the evening worship service.

The group is known as "Our Buddies" of C & H Originals founded by Carolyn Tew and Helen Smith.



Pictured are Carolyn Tew with her father, Leslie Herring Jr., and her neice, Kayla Kickok. Carolyn's husband, Gerald, is now serving in Iraq. Kayla served as "buddy" for her aunt and grandfather at the Veterans' Day commemoration dinner at Smyrna Church.

THANK YOU

A special thank you goes to all who sent birthday or Christmas cards in 2004. Your thoughtfulness goes beyond measure. May the Lord bless you during this new year!

Kaye Jones

TASK FORCE ON EDUCATION FOR MINISTERS

Those ministers who attended the May 2004 Ministers Conference at Cragmont Assembly will remember the motion that was presented and adopted by the ministers to recommend to the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists and Mount Olive College, the formation of a task force to work toward providing Master's level work for our ministers and other religious professionals. This motion met with unanimous approval at the Ministers Conference and at the 2004 Convention. This is in keeping with the founding fathers' original dream for the founding of MOC in the original actions of 1951 and subsequent years. It is fitting that this action comes as Mount Olive College is completing its 50th academic year on the Mount Olive campus.

The organizational meetings have been held and the Rev. Fred Baker, President of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists has appointed the Task Force members. The Task Force has been divided into four subcommittees. The subcommittees and their chairs are as follows. (1) Committee on the Education of Churches on the Role and Work of Pastoral Ministry, the meaning of Christian Vocation, and fostering Spiritual Vitality, Dr. David Hines, Chair. (2) Committee on Continuing Education for Pastors and Ministers, the Rev. Frankie Baggett, Chair. (3) Committee on Baccalaureate and Post-baccalaureate (seminary) Programs, Dr. Michael Pelt, Chair. (4) Committee on Financial Resources for Work of the Task Force and Implementation of its Recommendation (consultants, travel, scholarships, library resources, etc.), the Rev. Jeff Daughtry, Chair.

Dr. Pelt has already circulated a questionnaire as a preliminary part of that committee's work. Please respond as quickly as possible to this information gathering questionnaire. Our Task Force is working toward a clear and substantial report at the May Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. All of the subcommittees will be meeting on February 15 at Mount Olive College with the Steering Committee for the Task Force.

The Task Force Steering Committee members are: Dr. Michael Pelt, the Rev. Frankie Baggett, Dr. David Hines, the Rev. Jeff Daughtry, Secretary, and Dr. De Wayne Eakes, Chair. Pray for the work of the entire Task Force and the realization of this important dream for our Original Free Will Baptist Churches and for Mount Olive College.

LOCAL VOLUNTEERS HELP KIDS AROUND THE WORLD

Members of Lee's Chapel Church in the Plain View Community recently volunteered to help send gift-filled shoe boxes to needy children around the world. The project, called Operation Christmas Child is sponsored by Samaritan's Purse, an international Christian relief ministry lead by Franklin Graham. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has hand-delivered more than 31 million shoe box gifts to needy children throughout the world. Each year millions of kids, families, churches, schools and other community groups pack shoe boxes for what has become the world's largest international Christmas project for children.

Many local churches have contributed to this project. Lee's Chapel began packing shoe boxes twelve years ago, and this year served as an area drop-off site for the first time. A total of 833 shoe boxes were dropped off at Lee's Chapel during this first year. These boxes helped to make up the 27,400 boxes received in the Fayetteville region and the 7 million boxes received nationally.

As a part of their service, four members of Lee's Chapel Church attended the Operation Christmas Child Charlotte Airlift on December 9th. At this event, Charlotte area children helped to send off the shoe box gifts by singing songs of hope and peace. Crystal Woodman-Miller, a survivor of the 1999 Columbine High School tragedy was on hand to tell her story and of her plans to hand deliver her message of hope along with shoe box gifts to the children of Beslan, Russia, whose school was recently



As a part of their volunteer service, members of Lee's Chapel Church participated in the Charlotte Airlift event at Charlotte-Douglas Airport. Pictured above are Angela Warren, Youth Director; Franklin Graham, President of Samaritan's Pursue; and Ricky Warren, Pastor. Two other volunteers, Michael and Gail McLamb, were also present.

attacked by terrorists. Franklin Graham was also on hand to thank volunteers and to tell of his plans to personally help deliver boxes to Columbia, South America. 110,000 shoe boxes were airlifted from Charlotte-Douglas International Airport on board two giant Antonov 124S cargo planes from Russia. These planes were once used by the former Soviet Union to transport nuclear weapons, but are now being used to spread a message of hope at Christmas.

While in Charlotte, the members of Lee's Chapel also served at the processing center where boxes were sorted and packed into cartons for shipping. A total of 1.7 million boxes were processed in this one of six processing centers in the US. On the day Lee's Chapel served at the center, boxes were processed and packaged for shipment to children in the Ukraine. Though the work

was difficult, the joy of volunteering and being a part of such a special project made it a wonderfully rewarding experience.

Lee's Chapel encourages all churches, school groups, businesses, and other groups to consider packing shoe boxes for needy children next year. Boxes are received at the church (4948 Plain View Hwy.) the week prior to Thanksgiving. Individuals are also encouraged to do boxes if they wish. Former president, Ronald Reagan, and every U.S. President since, has packed an individual shoe box for a needy child through Operation Christmas Child. For more information on how to become involved and how to pack a shoe box, please contact Lee's Chapel Church at (910) 892-7855 or visit the Operation Christmas Child link at <www.samaritanspurse.org>.

(Continued on next page)

As a part of their volunteer service, members of Lee's Chapel Church participated in the Charlotte Airlift event at Charlotte-Douglas Airport. Pictured above are Angela Warren, Youth Director; Franklin Graham, President of Samaritan's Pursue; and Gail McLamb, co-coordinator for the local church. Two other volunteers, Michael McLamb, and Ricky Warren, pastor, were also present.



Pictured at left and below are some of the millions of gift-filled shoe boxes packed into cartons for shipping around the world. Michael and Gail McLamb, along with Ricky Warren, Pastor and Angela Warren, Youth Director were present when these gifts were given their send off to the children of Russia and Sudan. Seven million children in ninety-five countries around the world will receive gift-filled shoe boxes through Operation Christmas Child.



A HOLLY SPRINGS OFWB DISCUSSION OF VISION FOR THE FUTURE

by Pepper Worthington

"The future includes our debt," noted Brian Fetzer, mastermind builder behind the Family Life Center and interior renovation of the Holly Springs OFWB Church in Newport, North Carolina. "We prayed about the debt as we saw the rotten floor in the main sanctuary," he added.

"I came to Holly springs in 1996," added Pastor Ray Connor," and the Lord sent Brian to help us with building the Family Life Center which is a vision of our future. We call the Family Life Center our Nehemiah Project, and we raised \$100,000 before we started the building. It is a multifunctional building with a regulation size basketball court, a commercial kitchen, a fellowship area that can seat 200 people, and five big classrooms upstairs," added Connor.

"And your monthly debt?"

"The payments are over \$3,000 a month. But we are growing," Connor stressed.

"Reneé Wiggins, leader of the Praise Group in the 11 o'clock contemporary service, noted, "God will help us because we are willing, open vessels."

"What we want to do here at Holly Springs is not to play church as if it is a choreographed event, but we want to *be* a church. Being a church is our vision for now and for the future," stated Connor.

"And being a church means being able to confess to the church," explained Mary Jo Clark. "Sunday when I confessed to having been a drug addict, I was saying to the church that I have a problem and that I was not going to hide anymore. My first confession was to my pastor and to the Lord. Then I turned to my church. I felt that I had been sneaking around and sinning without them knowing. I knew I had to confess to my church. I am fortunate, because I



The Reverend Ray Connor seeks to build a culturally relevant program at Holly Springs OFWB Church.

am not in this fight alone. We are in this fight together. That's what *being a church* is all about," explained Mary Jo Clark.

"Agape love shown by God and shown by us toward each other is what being a church is," agreed Brian Fetzer.

"The debt of the church is a part of the future, but people tend to worry about the wrong things. People worry about what needs to be done to the building or the lawn. They worry about the room that needs painting. But our church has a different vision when we see the Lord moving in mysterious ways," noted Eugene Clark. "We are pushing forward and trying to reach out and convert people. Who cares about the lawn? We're here to win people to Christ," emphasized Clark.

"It's all about where the heart is," added Connor. "If we become so internally focused, then things like grass, paint, carpet, and colors take our energy, but if we are outwardly focused, then we use our energy for the Kingdom of God. It's the Kingdom things that will survive," stressed Connor. "When we stand before God, our works will be tried.



Ginny Connor is the wife of Pastor Ray Connor.

A lot of people will have a pile of ashes before them. We need to have gold, silver, precious stones before God," he said.

"Our whole new thrust should be an external focus, moving us out into the community," added Eugene Clark.

"It's the spirit of the people that counts," Reneé Wiggins said. "People may have controversial issues in their beliefs or in their lives, but here we must reach out to others. We must never forget we make mistakes, don't we? We are human. *God meets us where we are*. God helps us because we are willing, open vessels," she stressed with a soft smile.

"What I like about this church and its vision is that a lot of the people are genuine about their faith," said Raymond Connor. "Many here focus on the outreach to people, the food pantry, Hope Missions. You know, Christ reached out to prostitutes and criminals. He hung out with the people in the community," he noted.

"I like the outreach with contemporary music," said Dori Walker who plays the keyboard on

(Continued on next page)

Sunday morning at the 11 o'clock service. "I also love hymns and we like to do both. Music helps people."

"But music is not an end in itself," added Mary Jo Clark. "Music prepares us for worship."

"Worship is really a matter of the heart," noted Raymond Connor. "Worship is a matter of getting close to God. The style of music is not that important. What's important is to get the mind focused on God," he said.

"I felt the spirit of the Lord when designing the new structure," noted Brian Fetzer. "The structural work of the Family Life Center stops at the cross. The Family Life Center was finished six months before we decided to work on the floor of the sanctuary," he said.

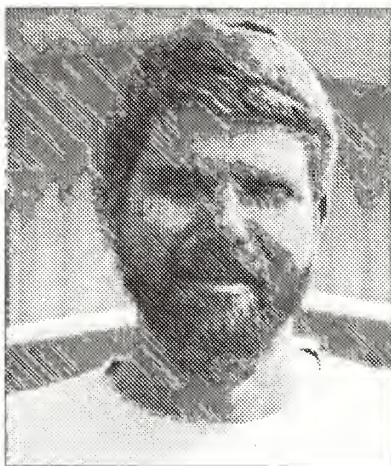
"You look at our church and you realize that a church just like a human life goes through different seasons," explained Ginny Connor. "Our church is in a real season of change. The building emphasis has made it possible to take out the inside of the sanctuary. The building is like our lives. God empties us out so He can refill us. The sanctuary is being emptied out in order to be refilled. And at times it is difficult to let go of what we had. We look to God to show us what we want," Ginny Connor explained.

"And some people don't want to let go," added Mary Jo Clark.

"Not letting go is a kind of blindness to what God wants for us. Change means God will show us something different. God teaches us through situations to trust Him and rely on His guidance," added Pastor Connor.

"And the future?"

"God will direct us," stated Connor. "We are a church with two services but still one church. We try to minister to people. Worship is a matter of the heart. The church is not supposed to be sitting here like a street address. We are moving like an army," he concluded.



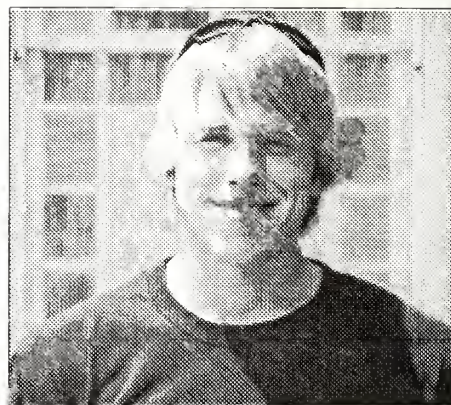
Brian Fetzer is the mastermind builder behind the Family Life Center of the Holly Springs OFWB Church.



Dori Walker is the keyboard player in the Praise Group at the Holly Springs OFWB Church.



Mary Jo Clark, member of the Holly Springs OFWB Church, believes in the power of confession.



Raymond Connor hopes to have a career in Christian Education.



Renee Wiggins is the leader of the Praise Group at Holly Springs OFWB Church.



Eugene Clark is an active member of the Holly Springs OFWB Church.

In the Spotlight

Davis OFWB Church

Davis, North Carolina Eastern Conference



Dr. Pepper
Worthington
Circuit Writer

Rev. Michael
Warning
Circuit Artist

Editor's Note: The Free Will Baptist announces the beginning of a new column, In the Spotlight. The Rev. Michael Warning and Dr. Pepper Worthington are acting as circuit witnesses to our church life across the denomination. Rev. Warning's pen and ink sketch and Dr. Worthington's account of a Sunday service hope to awaken a new interest in what is going on in our churches across the denomination. Each issue of The Free Will Baptist in 2005 will feature a church visited by our circuit witnesses.

Sarah Styron led the Sunday School lesson at Davis Church, stressing the free will God gave to man: "God gave us the ability to think and to choose. We can make a choice that can blow our whole life, but God made us from dust and put us here to care for the earth."

Members of the church gathered to worship in the sanctuary with Deacon Hubert Brohawn leading the hymns and making the announcements. The congregation sang *Count Your Blessings* and *How Great Thou Art*. "What wonderful songs!" noted Deacon Brohawn. "Our Down East community has had a rough twelve months after Isabel and we need to be strong in our prayer life," Brohawn added. "We need to support the Harvest Connection in our denomination. It's good to see everybody here in the house of the Lord."

Sherry Stott led the children's devotion, *Wordless Book*. She asked the children, "What do you find in books?" They answered, "Stories." Then she showed them a wordless book with different colored blank pages. "The black page speaks of sin. The red page speaks of blood. We gain eternal life from sin by Jesus

shedding His blood on the cross. And the white page here reminds us that Jesus' blood washes away the black sin and makes our lives clean as white," Sherry Stott explained.

"And the green page reminds us of plants, doesn't it?" asked Stott. "Yes!" exclaimed the children. "Plants grow, don't they? And we are to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ," she concluded.

Pastor Kevin Stott turned to Deuteronomy 26:5-10 for the Scripture reading. He stressed, "As believers we need to count our blessings. Remember, God has been good to us. God commands us to remember the blessings so that we may have faithfulness in our lives. That faithfulness and remembrance will lead us to obedience and to being better servants," he noted.

The Importance of Remembering

"The text in Deuteronomy reminds us that it is important to have a good memory. Even at my age of 35, when I have too much on my plate, my memory sometimes fails me. As we age, our memory about certain events becomes fuzzy. Yet our memory

about other events might be quite sharp," explained Stott.

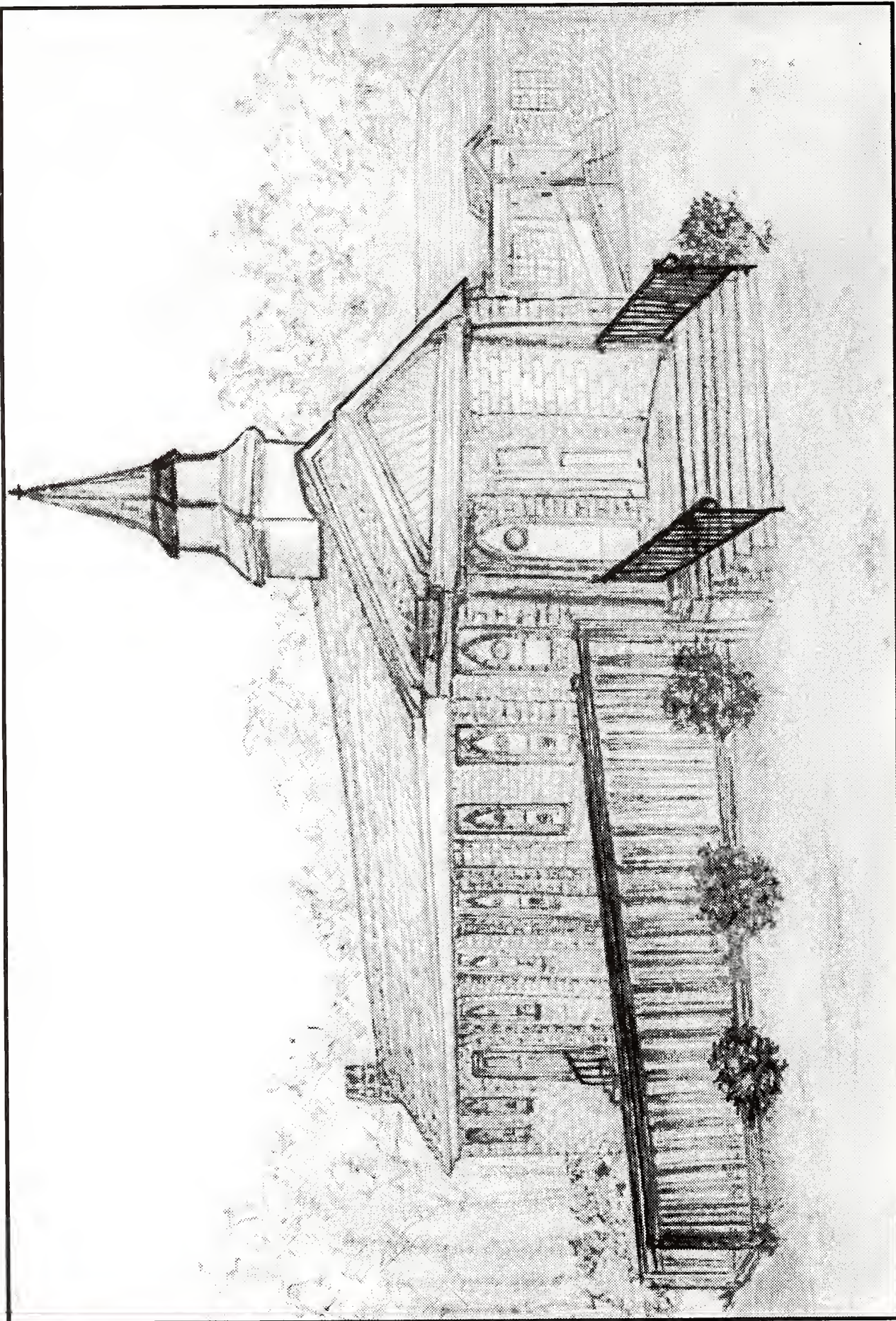
"But what does the Lord want us to remember?" asked Stott. "The Lord wants us to remember and to never forget all the things He has done for us, what Jesus did. The Lord wants us to remember the Lord and receive the benefits of the Lord," he said.



Milton Styron (left) and Hubert Brohawn (right) are deacons at Davis Church.

Benefits of the Lord

"What are the benefits of the Lord?" asked Stott. "The Lord hears our cry and delivers. When the Israelites cried out to the Lord to free them from the slave labor among the Egyptians, the Lord heard them. When we cry to the Lord God, the



Davis OFWB Church
Davis, North Carolina
Eastern Conference

Lord looks to our afflictions. When the Israelites complained to the Pharaoh, he doubled their work. The exact opposite happened when they cried to the Lord. The Lord heard them and the Lord helped them. The Lord brought them out of Egypt with a mighty hand and showed the power of His might," he said.

"Not until the angel of death came upon the firstborn of the Pharaoh did the Pharaoh free the Hebrews. The Jews celebrate the Passover today because the mark upon the door made the Angel of Death pass over them. When Jesus died, He shed His blood for us so that we will not have to face eternal punishment," Stott preached.

"The children of Israel had much to remember and when they cried unto the Lord, the Lord heard them," he said. "God does deliver us. God does understand our pain, our sorrow, and He can deliver us as well in His time, in His way, and in His will."

"Another benefit we receive from the Lord is the benefit of worship. God wants us to come to Him in worship. God knows what we need, but God also wants us to ask and to come to Him, and to take account of our priorities. As we worship God, we ask ourselves: *What do we really need for our lives?* We pray together and the Lord hears our prayers. The Lord's Prayer has seven petitions and only one is about material needs. Worship reminds us to be thankful and to get our priorities in order. We need to worship the Lord with our best. We need to be proud we are Christians," he said.

"God has blessed this country, but it is time for America to bless God," Stott concluded.



Sherry Stott led the children's devotion, Wordless Book.



The Rev. Kevin Stott is pastor of Davis Church.



The members of Davis Church send greetings.

SPECIAL SERVICES WORKSHOP

The Central Conference will hold a workshop on Tuesday, February 8, 2005
at First Free Will Baptist Church of Greenville from 7–9 P.M.
This workshop will focus on special services for Holy Week, Easter, and through Pentecost.
Pastors will share from their experiences in leading their congregations in worship.
All are invited to attend!

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The deadline for submissions to *The Free Will Baptist* is the 5th day of the month prior to publication. (Example: Items to be published in a January issue must be in no later than the 5th day of December.) You may submit items by any of the following methods:

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- Hand deliver, or
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—Samuel Dickey Gordon

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February 2005

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		1	2	3	4	5 Albemarle Woman's Auxiliary Executive Committee Meeting
6	7	8	9 ASH WEDNESDAY	10	11	12
13	14	15 Retirement Homes Board Meeting	16	17 Children's Home Board of Directors Meeting	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Sunday School Day in OFWB Churches	28 Spring Break for Traditional Students— Mount Olive College	NOTES:				

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Bobby Carden, Pee Dee Association

The purpose of this paper is to promote the cause of Christ among Original Free Will Baptists, and we reserve the right to refuse any article or news that is inconsistent with our purpose, programs, or policies, and that does not reflect a spirit of harmony and cooperation with the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation and the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. The contents herein do not necessarily reflect the beliefs and policies of the editor or of *The Free Will Baptist*. The responsibility for each article is given the person whose name appears under the title or to the person submitting said article.

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POWER VERSE

He that dwelleth in the secret place of
the most High shall abide under the
shadow of the Almighty (Psalm 91:1).

YOU MAY AS WELL STAY AWAY FROM CHURCH—IF!

This editorial is reprinted from the August 8, 1979 edition of The Free Will Baptist by then editor, Tommy Manning

You may as well stay away from church
—if you go merely because it's the family tradition.
—if your mind constantly wanders to the ocean, the mountains, or some other distant place.
—if you really don't want to go anyway.

You may as well stay away from church
—if you harbor a grudge against the minister, a neighbor, or some fellow parishioner.
—if you complain about the music, the order of worship, the general rendering of the service.

—if you are so intent on criticizing that you make that your main reason for attending.

You may as well stay away from church
—if you go because you promised a fellow member that you wouldn't miss that special meeting.

—if you go to show off your good taste in clothes and are intent on appraising the attire of others.

—if you feel certain that you know more than anyone else there.

You may as well stay away from church

—if you have decided that there is nothing of interest there for you.

—if you know beyond a doubt that you're better than all the others who attend.

—if you are convinced that it is beneath your dignity to be moved by the Spirit.

You may as well stay away from church

—if you count the minutes until the final prayer is prayed.

—if you commend the minister for a good sermon which you haven't really listened to.

—if you smile your approval for the whole service but inwardly feel repulsed by it.

You may as well stay away from church
—if you go for any reason except that of enlightenment and edification.

—if you don't go expecting, even desiring, a touch from the Almighty.

—if you aren't willing to forget self and submit to His leadership.

You may as well stay away from church

—if you aren't willing to "let go, and let God have His way."



"FOR THIS CAUSE"

by C. H. Overman, Editor Emeritus

In John 12:23–50, Jesus foretold His Death, or Crucifixion. Early in this passage He spoke of the cost of discipleship: "He that loveth his life shall lose it; and he that hateth his life in this world shall keep it unto life eternal. If any man serve me, let him follow me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve me, him will my Father honour" (vv. 25–26). He then focused on His own suffering: "Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour. Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again" (vv. 27–28).

From the human standpoint, Jesus faced His suffering with deep dread. From the divine standpoint, He knew why he came into this world. From the moment He set His face to go to Jerusalem, He knew His passion would be suffering as no human has ever known.

It has been almost a year since Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ* made its debut in theaters across the United States. Its message impacted the spiritual lives of many. Although criticized by many, its message was clear—Jesus suffered for lost humanity. Because of His supreme sacrifice in the giving of Himself, taking upon Himself our sins and paying the sacrifice for us, we experience forgiveness and redemption.

Each of us has a "cause" for living. We were not placed here to simply live, but to live for the one who paid the supreme sacrifice for us. As His followers, we are to share this Good News

with others. If we fail, we have disobeyed the commission He gave His followers—to go forth in all the world and make disciples. Why do we so often fail in this most noble calling? Could it be that we do not really believe the words which we proclaim?

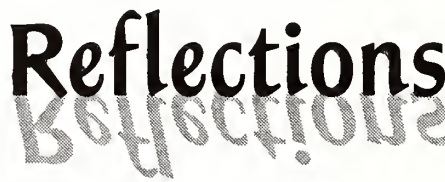
Jesus said to doubting Thomas, "...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). No words are more definite—without knowing Jesus Christ as Savior, no one truly can know the Father. He is the way of

salvation. He is truth and He is life. To fully believe these words would give believers today the passion, the cause, and the urgency, to work as never before in sharing the Good News that Jesus saves.

Christians enjoy the company of each other; we are the family of God. We are comfortable in this relationship. Indeed, we

should be. But what about those around us who do not know Him? If John 14:6 is true, as we proclaim, and if we would become faithful witnesses to this truth, we would be able to turn the world upside down for Christ as did the apostles in the days of the early church.

In addressing the Sanhedrin, Peter declared: "This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:11–12). Do we really believe it, or have we forsaken our true cause—the proclamation that in Christ people truly can come to know the heavenly Father?



Be What God Wants You To Be

(Dr. Donald Ribeiro, Free Will Baptist pastor, physician, and Mount Olive College Trustee, presented the following address at the Mount Olive College Commencement on December 18, 2004.)

It seems only yesterday I was in your seat, eagerly waiting for the commencement speaker to stop talking so I could walk across the stage and receive my diploma. Most of you have waited four or five years for this day. So, what's another hour? Do not worry; my remarks match my stature — short!

I truly can hardly remember who gave my commencement address, much less anything they said; other than good job or congratulations. I do not believe it was because they were boring or long winded but it was due to my lack of attention because of my eagerness to receive the reward of all my labors. I know your eagerness, and I will not be offended if you do not remember my name or cannot spell it. I will not be offended if in ten to twenty years you forget most or nearly all I have said today. I would, however, appreciate a few of your moments to share from my heart a few moments that changed my life forever.

Many times the most important events of our life happen quickly and sometimes seem of little significance. Those events can however, shape and change our destiny forever. One such event happened to me when I was thirteen years old.

My high school teacher asked me a single and straightforward question, "What do you want to be?" I quickly responded, "An oceanographer." I must have just seen "Wild Kingdom" or "Jacques Cousteau." (I still have a great fear of the ocean.) Looking back, I wonder why my teacher did not respond with laughter. Instead, she asked me what I liked. I told her I liked people and science. She suggested that I should think about being a doctor.

A doctor! I told her I had only seen a doctor once or twice and it was unpleasant. I also told her I was an average student and I had no money and there was no way I could ever be a doctor. She responded, "This is America and you can be whatever you want to be. Work hard and make good grades." But, there was one problem. I already knew that I could not be whatever I wanted to be. I had some experience in this area. I wanted to be a basketball player. I loved the Carolina Tar Heels, and always dreamed of playing for Dean Smith!

You may notice I am wearing cowboy boots today. This is because when you are 5'5" every inch counts! At thirteen I was 4'11", skinny, could not jump, and not the most coordinated guy around. As much as I wanted to be a basketball star, even in America, I could not be. All the desire and work in the world could not make it happen. So naturally, I also doubted my teacher's advice about becoming a doctor. But then something else happened.

A few months after my teachers succeeded in arousing my interest in something other than basketball and oceanography, I had another encounter. On April 13, 1974, I knelt at an altar in a small country church, confessed to God I was a sinner and that I believed Jesus Christ died for my sins



Dr. Donald Ribeiro and family

and I asked God to forgive me. I gave my life to Jesus. Simple as that, my life was no longer the same. I then heard a little different message. I could be anything God wants me to be. Now this made sense. Not whatever I wanted to be, but whatever God wanted me to be. Philippians 4:13 and Philippians 4:19 became my life's vision. "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.... But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

There was literally a fire within me. My grades soared with much hard work and long hours. Doors began to open for me. Opportunities to grow and expand became numerous. God placed me at the right places at the right times. I began to have encounter after encounter with some of the greatest people who loved me, nurtured me, and encouraged me. I learned to work hard and place my faith in God. Even when God called me into the ministry I recognized that He could make me what He wanted me to be. Although I will admit I ran for a while from this calling. I was sure I had lost my mind. I am convinced God has directed my steps and brought me to where I am today, Mount Olive College's graduation. What a wonderful and faithful God we serve.

You all have been given the opportunity not to become whatever you want to be, but to become whatever God wants you to be! Nothing is impossible with God. He can prepare and direct your destiny if you let Him. You can change a life forever. Never underestimate your ability to influence a life. Remember, life's most profound events are many times brief and simple. Make the most of every opportunity.

I am so proud of each of you. Your hard work, determination, and sacrifice have brought you to a milestone in your life. Enjoy your reward. It is well deserved. But as you consider where you will go from here, I believe that you can be whatever God wants you to be. I believe it because I have lived it. Go and be what God wants you to be.

NEWSWORTHINESS:

GUIDELINES FOR ACCEPTING ARTICLES FOR PRINTING

Newsworthiness refers to the importance of an article that is being considered for publication. Always consider your audience before writing your article or agreeing to report on any subject.

This concept should be applied by those submitting articles and information to *The Free Will Baptist*. We often receive article submissions that, while appropriate for the local church newsletter, are not relevant to the entire denomination. In order to be fair to our entire audience, we must restrict what we accept to what would be seen as important or of interest to people throughout the denomination, and not just in one church or small area.

For example, a minister's retirement or a groundbreaking for a new church building are major events that do not occur each and every year. A minister may have served at several different churches, thus making that an article of interest to many different people. A new church building could be of interest as well since it reflects growth on the part of our denomination and could serve as an encouragement and idea for other congregations.

However, almost all churches have fellowship dinners, fundraisers, retreats, and revival services. Therefore, while the facts surrounding these types of events might be of interest to the local congregation and appropriate for the local church newsletter, it is not necessarily relevant to the entire denomination. If every church having one of these such events were to report on it, our magazine would not have space to publish all the articles!

Another important concept to keep in mind is the "angle" of your articles. This is a concept that is especially employed by public relations specialists, and should be employed by churches not only for our magazine, but for local newspapers as well. While an article simply stating the menu of a benefit dinner and how many were in attendance would not be of

interest to anyone but the local congregation, an article on the person who benefits from the dinner might be of interest to many people in the denomination. For instance, suppose your church held a benefit dinner for a cancer patient. Instead of reporting simply on the dinner, report on that person's life and what that person has contributed to your church. Use the article as a way to help other churches see the importance of helping cancer patients within their own congregations. You may also be able to use the article as a way to encourage cancer patients to seek God's strength, peace, and comfort during their struggle.

Many churches and some denominational groups simply send photographs for us to publish. Photographs are important in order to make any publication more attractive. Only photographs that are close to the subject matter and are in focus reproduce well. It is also important to describe what is taking place in the photograph. Please do not simply send photographs of people eating or standing in a group without an article accompanying it.

Another way to get information concerning your church in our magazine is to advertise it beforehand. For example, if your church is having a special youth service, why not send in an advertisement to *The Free Will Baptist* inviting other churches to bring their youth? The same can be done for fundraisers, revival services, etc.

While we do not want to discourage churches from submitting articles to our magazine, we would like to improve our publication by making it more interesting to the larger audience. For this reason, we are trying to begin columns on different topics, and encourage more variety in what we print. Please keep these suggestions in mind when preparing future submissions to *The Free Will Baptist*.



**SIXTY-FOURTH ANNUAL
SUNDAY SCHOOL INSTITUTE
MARCH 5, 2005
MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE
MOUNT OLIVE, NC**

THEME: REAPING GOD'S HARVEST: "BRING THEM IN"

Workshops and Activities for All Ages

Registration Fee to Cover All Materials and Food: \$5 per person ages 4-12;

\$15 per person ages 13 and up or a maximum cost of \$60 per church

36 Different Opportunities for Learning Activities

Time: 8 A.M.-4:30 P.M.

All gather in Murphy Center for continental breakfast.

**Come and join us at
Mount Olive College
on Saturday,
March 5, 2005!**



ANNOUNCING

Sixty-Fourth Original Free Will Baptist Sunday School Institute

Saturday, March 5, 2005

Mount Olive College, Mount Olive, North Carolina

Reaping God's Harvest: "Bring Them In"

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

8 A.M.–9 A.M.	Mix, mingle, eat, and view displays
9 A.M.–9:40 A.M.	Opening Assembly, Registration, Directions, and Awards
9:50 A.M.–10:50 A.M.	Workshop Session 1
11 A.M.–12 NOON	Workshop Session 2
12 NOON–1 P.M.	LUNCH, View Displays, and MOC Bookstore open
1:10 P.M.–2:10 P.M.	Workshop Session 3
2:20 P.M.–3:20 P.M.	Workshop Session 4
3:30 P.M.–4:30 P.M.	Closing Session: Video, <i>A Man Called Norman</i>

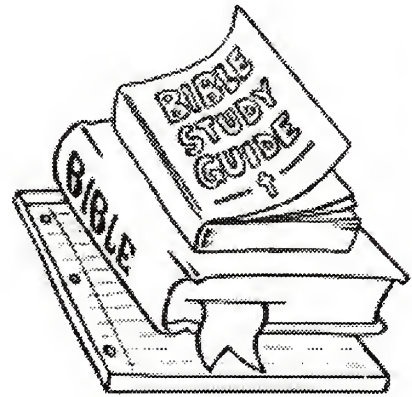
Workshop Titles and Leader

• Loving People Into the Kingdom	Dr. K. David Hines
• Open the Front Door and Close the Back Door	Dr. K. David Hines
• Introduction to Romans	Dr. K. David Hines
• Teaching Methods for Adults	Mrs. Janet Brown
• This We Believe! (<i>Articles of Faith</i>) Parts 1–4	The Rev. John Williams
• Understanding Our Roots (<i>OFWB History</i>) Parts 1–4	Mrs. Pam Braxton
• Evangelism in the Sunday School	Mrs. Angel Lorton
• Music in Worship and Beyond	Mrs. Angel Lorton
• Planning Spiritual Life Retreats for Men	Dr. Greg Day
• Biblical Styles of Leadership	Dr. Greg Day
• The ABCs of Disaster Relief	The Rev. David C. Hansley and Others
• Protecting the Church When Disaster Strikes	The Rev. David C. Hansley and Others
• Developing and Equipping a Church Team for Early Response	The Rev. David C. Hansley and Others
• Long-Term Recovery: Meeting the Unmet Needs	The Rev. David C. Hansley and Others
• A Seed, A Sower, and A Harvest	Mr. Phil Brown and Horton Road Church
• A Working FAITH in God's Church	Mr. Phil Brown and Horton Road Church
• Where's Your Focus: Leading by Doing	Mr. Phil Brown and Horton Road Church
• Getting 'Mini' in Ministry	Mr. Phil Brown and Horton Road Church
• Teaching and Loving the Pre-School Child	Mrs. Elise Freeze
• Understanding/Teaching the Elementary Child	Miss Becky Jo Sumner
• Ministry to and for Middle Schoolers	Mrs. Wanda Taylor
• Planning a Christian Wedding	Mrs. Gracie Jones and Company
• Planning Retreats for Women	Mrs. Cathy Crumpler and Mrs. Rebecca Hill
• Black Light Ministry	Mrs. Cathy Crumpler and Company
• Women Then and Now	Mrs. Shirley Forsythe
• Ministry To and For Senior Citizens	Mr. Troy Lee
• How Safe Is Your Facility?	The Rev. Woodrow Freeze
• Practicing Christian Stewardship in Estate Planning	The Rev. Jeff Daughtry
• Loving Your Neighborhood	The Rev. Al Markuson
• Making Life's Decisions (For Teenagers, Parts 1–4)	The Rev. John Hill and Mrs. Kitty Barnes
• Activities for Youth Ages 4–8	Mrs. Vickie Wade and Mrs. Laura Monroe
• Activities for Youth Ages 9–12	Mrs. Michelle Sauter

For further information, contact your pastor, Sunday School superintendent or Mrs. Mary Dudley at the Sunday School Ministry office at the Headquarters. Phone (252) 746-4963 or e-mail: <director@ofwbsundayschool.org>.

Original Free Will Baptist Sunday School Rally Day

THEME:
Reaping God's Harvest
"Bring Them In"

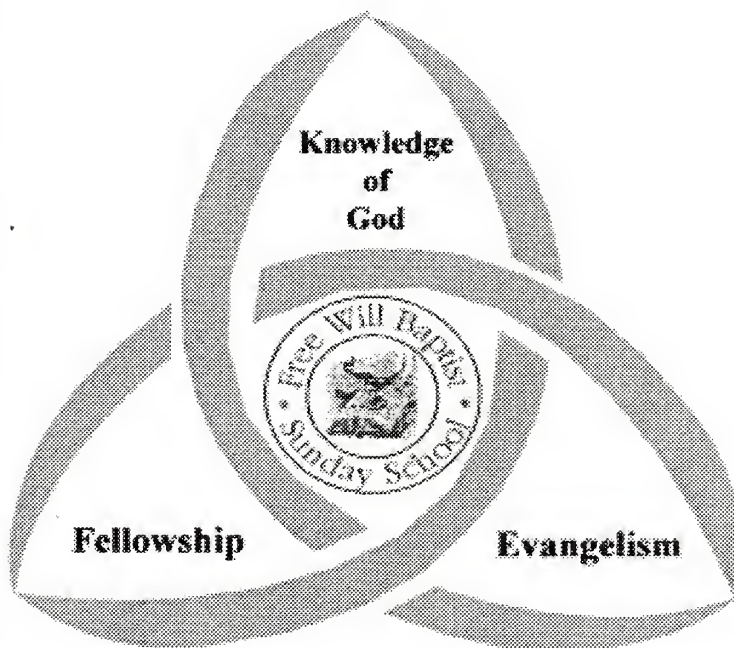


+ SUNDAY

+ FEBRUARY 27, 2005

**+ CELEBRATE
SUNDAY SCHOOL**

**+ RECEIVE A
SPECIAL OFFERING
FOR THE SUNDAY
SCHOOL MINISTRY**





RACHEL'S JOURNAL: "NEWS FROM MONCLOVA"

by Rachel Langley, Summer Missionary to Mexico



I hope you have had a great week! We've been super busy, but God was definitely at work here! I think I left off in Monclova last week when I wrote. We

arrived there last Wednesday night to stay with Hno Juan y Hna Ricarda at El Aposento Alto (The Upper Room FWB Church). Heather Creech and I were able to run both mornings while we were with them. They took us to visit different parts of the city after breakfast each day. Thursday we went to a really pretty park complete with a waterfall, a small stream, grass, and several fields to play soccer, baseball, tennis, etc. They were using the covered stage for graduations all week.

On Friday we walked downtown to see the shops and the old buildings. Then we went to a zoo. It was the saddest thing that I have ever seen. All of the animals were in these teeny, tiny cages with tin roofs. (In case you don't know, the temperature rises to about 100 degrees every day here.) I don't really like zoos at home because the animals still aren't where God intended for them to be, but, at least it looks a little like their natural habitat. As I watched some of the birds that were free to fly in and out of the cages, I started thinking. We have a choice to be free or to be caged. Life outside of Christ is prison...we have no freedom regardless of what others might say. When we surrender to Him, then we are truly free...He breaks the chains that bind us and sets us free just like Paul and Silas when they were in prison. It seems like a paradox...in surrendering there is freedom, but with our small human brains we can't logically reason through all the profound things of our great God. The Holy Spirit is the one who helps us understand when we are ready.

After our zoo excursion, Heather and I both were ready to go back to the house. Thursday and Friday nights we had a church service. I spoke, and Heather showed them how to do the craft. We were commenting on how each of us has a job within the body of Christ. Heather isn't comfortable yet speaking to a group of adults in Spanish, and I don't have an artistic bone in my body...somebody has to show me exactly what to do because there is no thinking it up on my own! It's been really great having Heather here. We made a good team! If any of you know her, ask to see her list...you'll be dying to sign up to come next year after you read it!! Ha, ha, ha!

On Thursday night there was a young man who came to church for the first time and asked for prayer. He and his girlfriend lost two babies, and a while later, he watched the murder of one of his friends. Obviously, he was hurting a lot. He also struggles with a drug addiction. He came forward for prayer. When the preacher asked him if he wanted to make a decision for Christ, he said that he did. Please pray for him (Gerardo) because he was very distraught, and I'm not sure if he really knew what he was saying.

I also had the privilege of talking with Juana, one of the ladies I met last summer. She is the one who was abused by her father and then by her husband, but had a dream to go to Monclova about 5 years ago. She accepted Christ almost immediately after arriving. Well, she is still struggling to make ends meet and to raise her children. Her oldest daughter, Paty, who was following the Lord closely, has not been to church in several months. Paty has become discouraged with their financial situation because sometimes they don't have enough money to buy food. They have been blessed enough to qualify for government housing

which allows them to have a place of their own that they are not renting. The payments are very low and come directly out of Juana's paycheck. Juana began to point out all of their blessings—such as having a roof over their head, a church family who loves them, and salvation. She also explained to Paty that God didn't always give us things the easy way because we weren't very appreciative when He does that. He wants us to trust Him to provide. Juana went on to tell me that she considers all of the problems and trials to be a blessing. I thought...wow...if all the hardship that she has explained to me are blessings, then my idea of a blessing is not correct. Then I remembered that Paul said something very similar to that when he was describing all of the things that had happened to him. It's pretty hard to believe actually! Mr. Harold said, "a problem is just an opportunity for God to work." I guess I'll be pausing to reflect on this the next time circumstances begin to overwhelm me!

Well...that's about all that I remember from Monclova...I need to work on catching you all up on the incredible things God has been doing. I've been really busy since I last e-mailed. The second team was here in Piedras for a week, and then I went to Saltillo—a city about 4.5 hours south of Rosita. I'm now back in Piedras with the third team to work. I'm looking forward to a short break this weekend in Rosita, and then I will be back in Piedras to help with the fourth (and last) team. I have a little more access to the internet here, so I will try to fill you in over this week.

May God bless you and keep you all as we are absent one from another! I can't wait to visit with you all and learn about how your summer has been!

*Love in Christ,
Rachel*

ANNUAL WORLD MISSIONS CONFERENCE

Sunday, February 20, 2005

College Hall, Mount Olive College

5–8 P.M.

Board of Foreign Missions
Special International

Guests: Willem and Lydia van der Plas

Missionaries to

Schedule:

First Session—5 P.M.

Light Meal—6 P.M.

Final Session—7 P.M.



PRAYER REQUEST FOR WILLEM AND LYDIA VAN DER PLAS

The reason for postponing the World Missions Conference that was scheduled for February 20, is that Willem recently had prostate surgery and will need further surgery in February to remove a cyst from his bladder. He will need some time to recover before he is able to travel. Join us in prayer for a speedy recovery.

We are hoping they will be able to travel to North Carolina by March 8. When we have a firm date for their arrival, we will announce a new date for the Conference.

Willem and Lydia
will be visiting for a short
time and will visit a
limited number of churches to
encourage all of you to mark the date
on your calendar and attend the Mis-
sion Conference. This will be a great
way to show your support for these
dear missionaries. This will be an ex-
citing time of fellowship, worship,
and music. Plan now to attend.

FOREIGN MISSIONS ANNUAL TELETHON

SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 2005

THEME: "The Cross—The Empty Tomb—The Message"

THEME VERSE:

*...I am the resurrection, and the life; he that believeth in me,
though he were dead, yet shall he live" (John 11:25).*

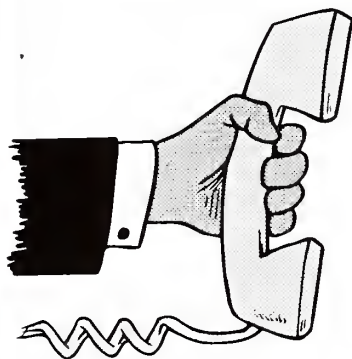
GOAL: A total of \$185,000 in gifts on Telethon Sunday

DAY OF PRAYER FOR REVIVAL AND WORLD MISSIONS
MARCH 20, 2005

PRAYER GOAL 2005:

All churches joining together in united prayer
during the Worship Hour on March 20, 2005.

LET US PRAY!



**Call
(252) 746-4963**

Sunday, March 20

1:30–5:30 P.M.

**With Your
Special Offering!**

THE PRE-SERVICE TRAINING FOR PALAWAN BIBLE COLLEGE STUDENTS

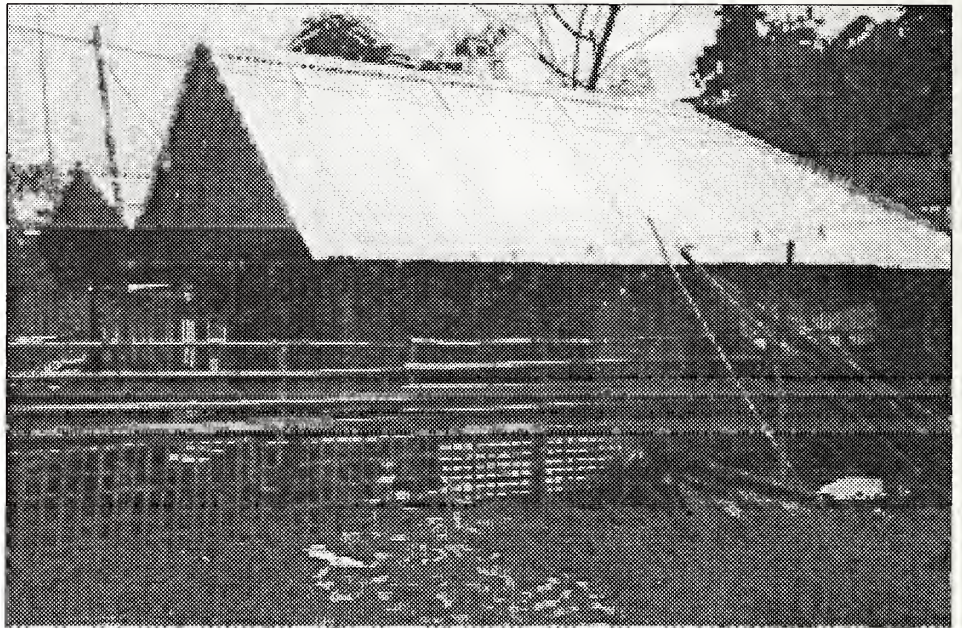
by The Reverend Fidel B. Presto

It is necessary for the student to undergo pre-service training in their chosen field. The Palawan Bible College administration has a dual purpose for conducting a pre-service training: first, to equip the students for the ministry; second, to establish and support the church.

The Shalom Fellowship FWB Church in San Jose, Puerto Princesa City, was established and maintained by Palawan Bible College students. They are utilized and served the church during prayer meeting, cottage prayer, Sunday School, worship service, house visitation, and other church activities such as song leader, preacher, teacher and speaker.

On Sunday afternoon they go for witnessing, visitation, and follow-up.

Please pray for them to be used by God to spread the Gospel and supporting the body of Christ.



Shalom Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church

MISSION PRAYER DAY

by The Reverend Nerry Peralta

Prayer opens the door of Heaven. Jesus said, "Keep watch and pray that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Matthew 26:41).

I believe prayer is very important in our lives. It is the breath of our spiritual life. That's why the Mission Department of the Free Will Baptist Church Philipppians, Inc. held our Mission Prayer Day last August 31, 2004. It was attended by almost ninety-seven percent of all mission workers plus the participation of the education and administration department.

I challenged them through the Word of God about the importance of prayer in the life of a pastor. Pastor Arman Manzano led the prayer time and Pastor Arnel Cuba led the praise and worship. After prayer we shared a lunch time fellowship. We enjoyed sharing individual experiences in the field.

Praise the Lord for the success of the activity. To God be the glory.



GOD IS GOOD TO US

by Pastor Bobby Marquez



Praise God! There are so many people seeking the Kingdom of God to praise and worship Him (see Psalm 24:3–6). The new blessed Free Will Baptist Church at Tagbarungis, Inagawan, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, Philippines, held a baptismal service on October 17, 2004. Five young people decided to obey God through water baptism as evidence of their true faith in Christ. They enjoyed and felt the glory and presence of God, because God is so good to us.

After the activities we celebrated through preparing delicious foods as we shared the blessings of God. They are all so happy to fellowship with each other. They thanked God for all workers and pastors whom God used to spread the Gospel. God is good to us. It is good to remember the goodness of God. Let's worship the Lord (see 1 Corinthians 15:57).

"THE GREATEST NEED OF OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL"

by The Reverend R. P. Harris

This article is reprinted from The Free Will Baptist, Wednesday, January 29, 1936 edition.

If I were to step up to you and ask you the question, "What does your Sunday School need most?" I am sure you would have some answer that you would readily give and your answer would be very good. I am sure of that, but I ask you to think seriously on this question and see if you would not change your mind a few times before you reached your permanent decision. First of all, you might say that a consecrated leadership is essential for the life of a Sunday School. There is a great amount of need centered around this thought, but, then, how may we secure a consecrated leadership? What is the proper step to take toward securing it? Someone may say that our Sunday School needs, most of all, a united effort on the part of all concerned. That, too, is a very good point and will aid the work most

wonderfully, but suppose if all cooperate in their efforts but very few be filled with the Holy Ghost? Will your Church School prosper and grow? For example, suppose I went out into the woods to cut wood and after I had



reached the place that I wanted to cut wood, I discovered that I had left my ax home? What then? Could I cut very much wood without that necessary tool? I should say not. In like manner a person going before a class without the Spirit of God, his tool or

instrument that is necessary to proclaim the Gospel to dying men and women, cannot accomplish very much. There are quite a few things that might be considered along this line of discussion, but I am going to give, as best as I can, what I think our Sunday Schools need most.

First of all, I would say that if our people had a desire to worship God, we would have no difficulty in our Sunday Schools. But someone will ask, "How may we go about making the people desire to worship God?" Here is my simple answer to that question: Make your Sunday School program so attractive that everyone will desire to be present. But mind you, never resort to bring into your program things of the world. "Well," someone will ask, "What can we do

(Continued on next page)

to make our Sunday School attractive without bringing in things of the world?" My suggestion is that you unite the forces of your Sunday School and organize your efforts for an attractive program. The greatest thing you now need is preparation. For example, when a farmer goes out to plant a crop, his most essential task is that of preparing the soil first. If the soil is properly prepared, he does not

have much difficulty during cultivation. We need to organize the forces in our Sunday School and prepare such programs that will fit the desires of the people. Our programs should be prepared at least a month ahead. Someone will say, "That is too much form." Let me say to you that we must keep pace with others of the world. Not to participate in "the things of the world" but to introduce

spiritual things that will attract young people, as well as the old, and create a desire in our programs to worship God. We can worship God more effectively when we want to worship; therefore, it is necessary to create the desire of our people to worship. Some of our Sunday Schools are so dry and have the very same routine every Sunday, no wonder we have no interest.



MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE'S 22ND Annual Basketball Church Night

Saturday, February 19, 2005

Special recognition
to the church

with the largest attendance!

Drawing for door prizes!

Half-time activities
for all ages!

*Lady Trojans vs.
Anderson College*
5 P.M., College Hall

Trojans vs. Anderson College
7 P.M., College Hall

Special Tickets \$1.00

To reserve your tickets, call Tim Woodard in the
admissions office today!

(919) 658-2502 or
(800) 653-0854

NEED HELP? COME TO FAFSA DAY FEBRUARY 19

If you need assistance completing your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), we can help!

Join us Saturday, February 19, from 9 A.M.-1 P.M. at Mount Olive College. Registration for this event will be in the Henderson Building Lobby.

Bring your W2 and tax returns for 2004 and we'll help you successfully complete your Free Application For Federal Student Aid!

To attend, please register online at <www.cfnc.org>. For more information about this free event at Mount Olive College, please contact Tim Woodard in admissions at (919) 658-2502 or (800) 653-0854.

Sponsored by CFI,
the North Carolina
Education Assistance
Authority and
Mount Olive College.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2005 ELDER P. T. LUCAS PASTOR'S AWARD

In recognition of the outstanding service rendered by many Free Will Baptist pastors, Dr. Thomas R. Morris of Wilmington, NC, has established the Elder P. T. Lucas Pastor's Award through Mount Olive College. The purpose of this award is to recognize a Free Will Baptist pastor for extraordinary leadership and service to his church, community, and denomination. Emphasis is to be upon pastoral services. There will be two awards this year, one recognizing a full-time minister and the other a bi-vocational minister. The award is to be used by the recipients to strengthen and enrich their pastoral ministry. The recipients are to provide a written report within one year of being recognized of how the funds benefited their pastoral ministries.

Originally from the Union Grove Church near Nahunta, Dr. Morris is providing two \$1,000 awards as a memorial to the late Elder P. T. Lucas, Dr. Morris' great-grandfather. Elder Lucas, a Free Will Baptist minister early in the twentieth century, is remembered for his pastoral services. In sponsoring this award, Dr. Morris is seeking to strengthen and support the pastoral ministry.

The recipients will be selected from those nominated by their churches according to the following criteria:

1. *Pastoral Leadership and Service.* This category, which will receive the greatest weighing in the evaluation,

includes effectiveness as a faithful pastor, as a preacher and teacher of God's Word, and as a leader for church growth and development;

2. *Denominational Service,* including service to our convention, the conference, and to our denominational ministries; and

3. *Community Service,* including services such as participation in local community ministries and service as a volunteer chaplain.

If you feel that your pastor has excelled in these areas, your church is encouraged to nominate your pastor for this award by completing the information below and attaching a letter of recommendation. Both the information sheet below and the letter must be signed by the clerk of your church and the deacon chair. To be considered for the 2005 award, nominations must be received by April 30. The recipients will be announced during the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists in May at Mount Olive College.

The selection committee for this award will include representatives from the North Carolina Ministerial Association and Mount Olive College. Please address all nominations or questions to: The Elder P. T. Lucas Pastor's Award Selection Committee, Mount Olive College, or call Dr. David Hines at the College (919) 658-2502 or (800) 653-0854.

NOMINATION FORM

Pastor's Name: _____

Telephone: _____

Address: _____

Current pastorate: _____

Beginning date: _____

Conference membership: _____

Date ordained: _____

1. *Pastoral Leadership and Service.* In the space below or in a letter of recommendation describe your minister's effectiveness as a faithful pastor, as a preacher and teacher of God's Word, and as a leader for church growth and development. Please note that the major criteria for this award is extraordinary pastoral service. Give specific examples.

2. *Denominational Service.* In the space below note services to our convention, the conference, and to our denominational ministries. Include offices held, board memberships, and involvement in special projects. Give the dates when appropriate.

3. *Community Service.* Note participation in local community ministries such as service as a volunteer chaplain. List offices held and give the dates when appropriate.

Please attach any additional information you think might help the committee evaluate the services of your pastor.

Signatures: _____
Deacon Chair _____ Date _____
Church Clerk _____ Date _____

Please return this form along with a letter of recommendation by April 30 to: Pastor's Award Selection Committee, Mount Olive College, 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365. For information, call Dr. David Hines at the College (919) 658-2502 or (800) 653-0854.

PROGRAMS FOR WORKING ADULTS IN 2005

Research Triangle Park location—

Criminal Justice Administration

Starts February 15, 2005, at 6 P.M.

Contact Dr. Robin Spaid, director of Mount Olive College at RTP for information at (919) 941-2970 or (888) 258-5188; e-mail: <rspaid@moc.edu>.

Mount Olive location—

Management and Organizational Development

Starts February 21, 2005, at 6 P.M.

Contact Mrs. Allison Sullivan, director of evening college admissions for information at (919) 658-2502 or toll free (800) 653-0854; e-mail: <asullivan@moc.edu>.

Wilmington location—Heritage

Starts February 22, 2005, at 6 P.M.

Contact Mr. Alan Coheley, director of Mount Olive College at Wilmington for information at (910) 256-0255 or (800) 300-7478; e-mail: <acoheley@moc.edu>.

New Bern location—Heritage

Starts March 2, 2005, at 6 P.M.

Contact Mr. Vaughn Purnell, director of Mount Olive College at New Bern for information at (252) 633-4464 or (800) 868-8479; e-mail: <vpurnell@moc.edu>.

AN HONORABLE NAME

The naming of the College's new academic complex for Dr. and Mrs. Raper is a well-deserved and earned honor. The Rapers have given 50 years of their life to advancing the Christian mission of Mount Olive College, and rightfully so the institution will forever be marked by their godly deeds and their good name.

In any capital campaign the naming opportunities are highly sought by major donors because of the recognition, permanence, and prominence of such a gesture. Although the academic complex carried a price of \$2 million dollars, the College's Board of Trustees, along with various denominational leaders, pastors, and laypersons felt Free Will Baptists, alumni, and community people would like the opportunity to honor Dr. and Mrs. Raper, and the plan was set into motion. Many individuals already have made a five-year commitment to the project.

Since the Rev. Earl H. Glenn is the only living member of the first Board of Trustees at the College, it is quite significant that he and Mrs. Glenn have made the first gift toward this naming opportunity to honor Dr. and Mrs. Raper. In reflecting over the more than fifty years he has known the Rapers, Mr. Glenn stated, "In our search for someone to fill the position as president of Mount Olive College, the first Board of Trustees agreed to contact Dr. William Burkette Raper who, at that time, was serving as pastor of Hull Road Free Will Baptist Church in Snow Hill. The Rev. David W. Hansley, chairman of the board, personally visited Dr. Raper and expressed our need and prayerful desire for him to fill that position. A short time later, the board met with Dr. Raper on the front lawn of the old Mount Olive school building, which later became Mount Olive College. At that point, Dr. Raper informed us that, while considering the offer he went daily into the woods to earnestly seek direction from God. After many days of praying for God's leadership, he agreed to accept our offer and become president.

"Upon hearing his testimony concerning prayer and seeking divine guidance, I knew that he was God's man

for the hour. Not only was he God's man for that hour, but he was God's man for every hour of the 50 years he served Mount Olive College as president so sacrificially and devotedly. He holds the record for having served longer than any other college president.

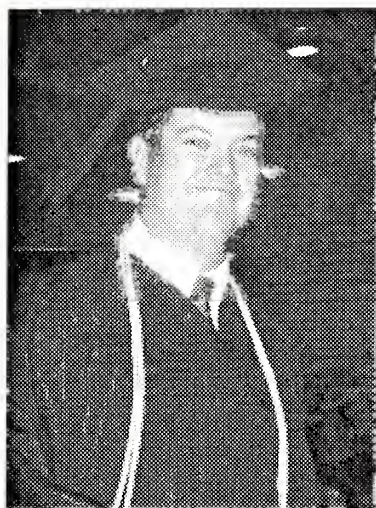
"Upon his retirement, he announced that he will still be serving Mount Olive College and the Free Will Baptist denomination by writing a history of Mount Olive College. What better person to write a history of the institution than the man who nourished it and helped it to grow from \$6.17 and an old run-down school building to the multi-million dollar campus that it is today?

"It is my sincere opinion that no other person could have successfully led Mount Olive College to become the great institution that it is today as did Dr. William Burkette Raper. As Original Free Will Baptists, we owe Dr. Raper our deepest gratitude and praise. He was then, and still is today, God's man."

During the next several months, Jean F. Ackiss, director of church support, will invite churches, groups, and individuals to be a part of this meaningful project. "Never before have Free Will Baptists been given the opportunity to make such a difference in so many lives," Mrs. Ackiss states.

Picture it—a new academic complex that will double the College's current classroom space and house the School of Business, Agribusiness Center, and Department of Science and Mathematics. Within the same two-story building will be a 500-person regional conference center for hosting conferences, forums, training meetings, and workshops. The complex will offer students state-of-the-art facilities with modern classrooms and laboratories, providing resources to further develop business and science-oriented curricula and ultimately provide space for graduate education in business. A dream? Yes. A dream come true with an honorable name on a building that will be used to help many students fulfill their dreams in years to come.

SMART RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED DR. THOMAS R. MORRIS AWARD FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AT MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE



Edward Kelley Smart of Pitt County received the distinguished Dr. Thomas R. Morris Award for Academic Excellence at Mount Olive College's 51st commencement on Saturday, December 18, 2004.

The \$2,000 cash award is given to the baccalaureate graduate who best exemplifies serious academic pursuit and love and breadth of learning. The award requires a minimum 3.7 cumulative grade point average and exhibited leadership in extracurricular activities. The recipient must have been a full-time student and is selected by a committee of faculty members and Student Government Association representatives.

A member of Reedy Branch Church in Pitt County, Smart is the associate minister of Free Union Church in Greene County. He is the son of Larry and Mary Lee Smart of Winterville. Smart is a graduate of Greenville Christian Academy and Pitt Community College and was graduated from Mount Olive College with a bachelor of science degree in religion.

Benefactor of the Morris Award is retired Goldsboro optometrist, Dr. Thomas R. Morris. A native of Nahunta in Wayne County, Dr. Morris was raised in Union Grove Church. A graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill, he now resides in Wilmington.

COLLEGE DINNERS EXCEL

...But with God all things are possible (Matthew 19:26). The 2004 dinner goal was exceeded! We thank God and His people for responding to the call to provide support for Mount Olive College. Even though the coastal counties are still recovering from Hurricane Isabel, gifts received for the 2004 dinners were \$11,194 more than last year.

Jean F. Ackiss, coordinator for the dinners stated, "I am deeply grateful to each person who worked so diligently in his or her county. It took everyone working together to provide this level of support. These gifts represent a deep commitment on behalf of Free Will Baptists to have a college that can serve the educational needs of the church.

"We thank God for the faithful support of the Free Will Baptist Church. We have good volunteers in this program, and they show by their efforts that they believe in Mount Olive College and that they want this ministry to fulfill its Christian mission."

2004 FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH DINNER PROGRAM AS OF JANUARY 5, 2005

County	2003		2004				County Chairman
	Bridge Builders	Gifts	Bridge Builders	Gifts	Goal	Over/Under	
Beaufort	67	\$ 12,812	69	\$ 13,348	\$ 13,225	\$123	Billy Gurkin
Carteret	55	\$ 11,097	64	\$ 11,165	\$ 13,500	-\$2,335	Sheri S. Noonan & Edgar Pake, Jr.
Craven	85	\$ 24,454	87	\$ 21,765	\$ 25,175	-\$3,410	Julie Wetherington
Duplin	71	\$ 20,700	67	\$ 21,200	\$ 21,100	\$ 100	Tommy Benson
Edgecombe	64	\$ 10,907	73	\$ 12,103	\$ 10,900	\$ 1,203	Ray Williamson
Greene	194	\$ 46,011	201	\$ 51,653	\$ 46,175	\$5,478	Randy Beaman & Genevieve M. Taylor
Johnston-Wake	219	\$ 52,044	222	\$ 54,349	\$ 50,525	\$3,824	Keenan Hinnant & Wanda Jones Blow
Jones	33	\$ 7,535	33	\$ 8,540	\$ 7,600	\$ 940	Gene Burkett
Lenoir	126	\$ 26,041	136	\$ 25,937	\$ 26,500	-\$ 563	Cleo S. Hinson
Nash	34	\$ 8,659	34	\$ 8,364	\$ 8,950	-\$ 586	John R. Manning
Onslow-Brunswick	26	\$ 4,337	29	\$ 4,591	\$ 4,800	-\$ 209	Ronnie Parker
Pamlico	0	0	37	\$ 8,500	\$ 7,950	\$ 550	Judy Thaanum & Beverly Holton
Pee Dee	53	\$ 10,199	64	\$ 11,838	\$ 10,200	\$ 1,638	Danny McPherson
Pitt	212	\$ 47,183	207	\$ 42,452	\$ 45,750	-\$3,298	Jane T. Tripp
Samp,Harn,Cumb	201	\$ 49,705	198	\$ 49,618	\$ 49,575	\$ 43	Lee Morton Jernigan
Wash, Mart, Tyrr, Pasq	69	\$ 25,642	72	\$ 24,431	\$ 25,475	-\$1,044	Lloyd W. Jones, Jr.
Wayne	221	\$ 81,238	225	\$ 82,618	\$ 80,950	\$1,668	Barbara Lancaster
Wilson	240	\$ 54,000	250	\$ 51,286	\$ 54,525	-\$3,239	Johnny Sullivan
Total	1,970	\$492,564	2,068	\$503,758	\$502,875	\$ 883	

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL ALUMNI WEEKEND WAS HELD AT MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

The weekend before Thanksgiving, hundreds of alumni and their family members returned for a reunion weekend that let you "Tell Your Story" which was evidenced during every activity with alumni sharing with each other and their former faculty.



Cynthia Kennedy and friends.

The weekend kicked off with a Business Briefing on Friday morning with a talk: "People Equity: An Innovative Approach to Managing Human Capital." The Science and Mathematics Department hosted an Alumni Luncheon with Christian Waters '95 (originally from St. Mary's Church, Craven County), Piedmont Region Fisheries Research Coordinator for the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission's Division of Inland Fisheries. His presentation was entitled "Freshwater Fisheries Biology in NC."

The weekend continued at Southern Wayne Country Club bringing alums from as far away as Florida and as close as walking across the street to play golf with their former classmates and friends. Alums from the class of 1981 made it 8 years in a row for their golfing reunion. FWB ministers Harry Grubbs '66 and Phil Wood '76 played to a second place finish.



Free Will Baptist ministers Harry Grubbs '66 (far right) and Phil Wood (second from left) '76 played golf at Wayne Country Club.

Saturday, began with a walk for cystic fibrosis, followed by the 8th annual Criminal Justice workshop; this year's theme was identity theft. Just after lunch a Planned Giving Seminar was presented by Jeff Daughtry '78, Assistant Director of Planned Giving.

Later in the day at the annual business meeting and dessert reception, The Mount Olive College Alumni Association named Dr. W. Burkette Raper and Mrs. Rose Mallard Raper of Mount Olive as honorary alumni of the College. The award was given in appreciation for their 50 years of service to Mount Olive College. Gloria Wallace Edwards '69 (Snow Hill Church), during her entertainment for the reception, praised the Rapers for their dedication to the College and for "the vision" that brought the once small two-year school into its own.

Raper was appointed president of

the College in 1954 at the age of 26, making him the youngest college president in the United States. During his presidency, Raper guided the College from a two-year to a four-year institution and oversaw the development of the current 138-acre campus on Henderson Street. Raper retired as president of Mount Olive College in 1995 after 40 years, making him the longest tenured college president in the nation. From 1995 to 2004 he served as director of planned giving. Other speeches, plaques, and gifts were given to the Rapers—even a "green" jacket with the Mount Olive College seal emblazoned on the pocket was presented to Dr. Raper by outgoing president James Cahoon from the alumni in recognition of his "Master" plan and work for the College.

During the reception, members of the entering class of 1954 and 2004 were



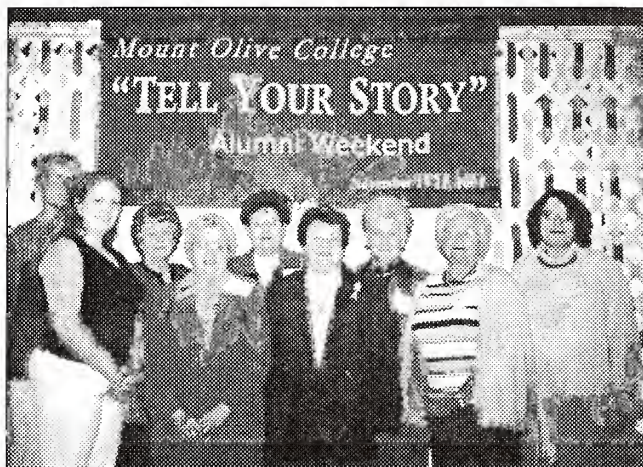
Christian Waters, Willis Brown, Dr. Lorelle Martin met with others for the Science and Mathematics Department Alumni Luncheon.

(Continued on next page)

recognized by Becky Jo Sumner '68. Attending during the weekend were Nettie Hansley Woodall from Myrtle Beach, SC; Rose Jones Wetherington, Kinston; Barbara Woodall Hinton, Princeton; Virginia King Bailey, Faison; Jack Paramore, Wallace; Carrie Lou Bowden Asbill, Dudley; and Kathryn Raper Pittman, Kinston.

During the weekend, several alumni were recognized for contributions they made to the College and their community. Kim Quinn of Kenansville was presented with the Alumni Hall of Fame award in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the local and regional economy as owner and president of Prima Tech, a Duplin County-based organization that produces and distributes animal health delivery systems. Since founding the company in 1996, Quinn has molded Prima Tech into a competitor in the international marketplace, doing business in 49 states and 24 foreign countries. Today, the company's 42 employees manufacture 300,000 products annually, which account for over \$5 million in sales.

Quinn also serves on the Mount Olive College Board of Trustees and the College's New Century Capital Campaign Steering Committee, and Prima Tech has recently joined the Mount Olive College Business Associates program. Quinn earned his bachelor's degree in business from Mount Olive College in 1933 and an associate's degree in animal husbandry from NC State University in 1990.



Alumni from 1954-2004

Genevieve McLamb Taylor '57 presented the lifetime membership award to the Rev. Frank Harrison '61 of Mount Olive, former campus minister and professor of religion emeritus, for his extraordinary leadership and support for the academic development and Christian spiritual life enrichment at Mount Olive College.

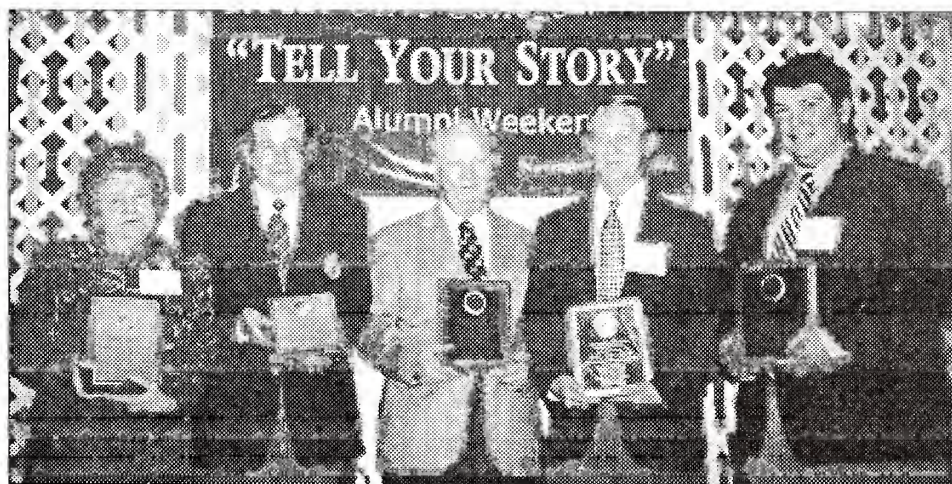
Harrison served Mount Olive College for 30 years as campus minister and pastored several OFWB churches throughout his career. "A resumé in no way does justice to the extent of Frank Harrison's service to the College, church, and community," said David Hines, chair of the department of religion and former student of Harrison, "There have been countless persons who, during a time of personal crisis, sat in his office for godly counsel. No one will ever know how many students he has personally helped."

James Alton Cowan '59 received the 2004 Distinguished Service Award presented by Jane Barrow Gainey. "Although he left North Carolina to enroll in graduate school, Alton Cowan never forgot his eastern North Carolina roots or the role Mount Olive College played in shaping his life. He encouraged others to attend Mount Olive College and remained active in college alumni activities, though he was far away," Gainey commented.

Cowan has also been a consistent financial supporter of the College, having established the Sophia Potts Award and Endowed Scholarship Fund in 1983 in honor of one of his former professors. In addition, Cowan was instrumental in the establishment of three other endowed funds which support the scholarship program at Mount Olive College: the Cowan Endowment, The Patti L. Davis Endowed Fund, and The Rose of Sharon FWB Church Endowed Scholarship Fund.

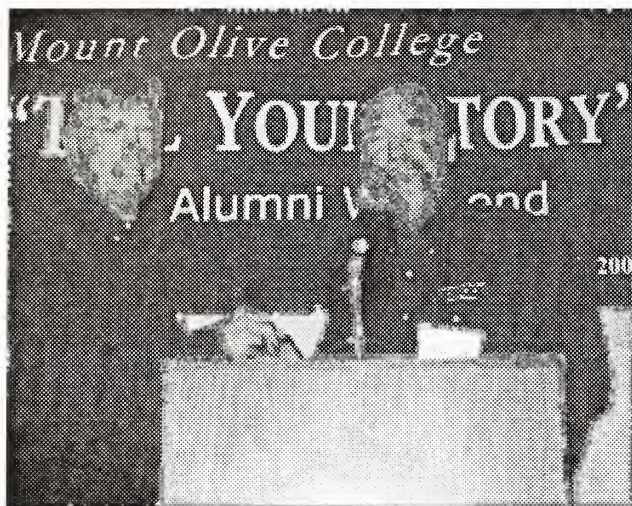
After graduate school, he spent most of his professional career at Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, Louisiana. In 1996, he received the Special Award of the Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities for his role as the first chairman of the Fletcher Lecture Series at Nicholls State, where he was the head of the Department of Literature and Languages.

"I have had lots of contact with Alton. He has been tremendously supportive of the Alumni Work in every way," notes Dianne Riley, alumni director. "Alton Cowan knows the secret of giving from the heart whether it is a



Pictured are those who received recognition during Alumni Weekend.

(Continued on next page)



Romey McCoy (left) takes the gavel from James Cahoon.

monetary gift or his gift of encouragement."

Also during the business meeting, Romey McCoy '78 of Raleigh was elected president of the 2004-2005 Mount Olive College Alumni Association (MOCAA). He was presented the gavel by past president James Cahoon. As president of the association, he plans to instill in other alumni the importance of giving back to their alma mater, so that future generations will have the privilege of higher education. "More than 25 years have passed since I became an alumnus, and while many things have changed through the years, my passion for this institution has never faltered. I still believe in Mount Olive College," McCoy stated. He is a revenue field auditor and interstate

examination team leader for the State of North Carolina Department of Revenue. McCoy is the son of Buck and Lucy McCoy (Core Creek Church, Craven County) for whom he and his brother, Wendy, established an endowed scholarship fund to benefit students majoring in business and education.

Alumni had the opportunity to cheer the Mount Olive College Trojans to victory during the 39th Annual Mount Olive Pickle Classic. Outgoing president James Cahoon and wife, Kathy, from the Class of 1975 brought their daughter, Katherine, who not only took a campus tour, but found her roommate for next year who just happened to be the daughter of her dad's Mount Olive College roommate.

The weekend concluded with a memorial service led by Barbara Woodall Hinton of Princeton from the first entering class on the Mount Olive campus in the fall of 1954 and a worship service with many alums participating with the Rev. Al Warrick '69 of Smithfield, former coach and dean of the College bringing the morning message.

"Mount Olive College is people: people from different backgrounds, different professions, different parts of the world: yet, all with a common thread of how Mount Olive College has made a difference in their lives. It could not have been more evident than during this Alumni Weekend as the many Mount Olive College stories were told," stated Riley. "It truly was a *Tell Your Story* weekend. One alum said it this way:

"Whatever I am and whatever I become is due in large part to the influence of Mount Olive College in my life. For that, I shall be forever grateful."

Another alum said:

"By the time I left Mount Olive Junior College to continue my studies, I was fully baptized by the College. And I knew that, somehow, I had to 'give back' to the College for my priceless experience—not just financially but with hopes and dreams, as they too are important. And I fear that I may never be able to 'give back' enough."



The Cahoon family will remember this Alumni weekend for years to come.



Dr. Michael Pelt, (far left) Willis Brown (third from left) and their wives were among those who attended the Alumni worship service. They are pictured here with Mr. and Mrs. Warrick.

CHRISTMAS 2004

Christmas has come and gone, but has left many memories with the residents of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home. The residents and staff would like to thank each of you who remembered the Home during the holiday season. Many of you sent cards, came for visits, purchased gifts, gave monetary contributions, and remembered us in prayer; for all these things we are truly thankful. There was an almost magical atmosphere of love and caring throughout the campus this holiday season.

The programs or parties we had this season were opened or closed with a prayer of thanksgiving for all of the blessings we experienced daily; many included Scripture readings. Every resident of the Home was able to experience "being special" because of the sharing of thoughtful people. The programs and gift sharing were also reminders to all in attendance of God's love and mercy, and the generosity and goodness of His people, as we shared in the Christmas festivities. Thank you so much for all you have done, and continue to do for the Free Will Baptist Children's Home.



GARY LEE RECEIVES DEGREE



The Free Will Baptist Children's Home is pleased to announce that Gary Lee has been awarded a master of business administration degree from Campbell University. The degree was awarded on December 18, 2004.

Gary joined the agency in 1994 as Director of Church and Public Relations. He has served as Vice President of Operations since 1997. Gary received a bachelor of science degree in business administration from Mount Olive College in 1994. He is a volunteer with the guardian and litem program of Johnston County, and is a member of Faith Free Will Baptist Church. Gary resides in Four Oaks with his lovely wife, Janet, and son, Peyton.

Please join us in congratulating Gary on this accomplishment.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE...ONE CHILD AT A TIME

At "Friends of Children's Day," November 20, 2003, many of you had the opportunity to meet Miss Cynthia Bulleck, a past resident of the home. Cynthia graduated from high school while staying at the home, and started pursuing her dreams when entering Barton College. She graduated from Barton in May of 2004 with a degree in social work.

Cynthia took a few minutes on Friends of Children's Day to speak and tell of her upcoming out-of-state job training, and express her thanks to the Home and to the many people who have helped her along the way.

Cynthia's story is already one of success because, against some difficult challenges, she was able to complete high school and college. Now the challenge of settling into a new career and repaying the school loans is still ahead. Many of you opened your arms and your pocketbooks on Friends of Children's Day to assist Cynthia. There is no way she could call each of you by name, but

she has asked that we express to you her heartfelt thanks for your concern and generosity toward the Free Will Baptist Children's Home and toward her as she continues on her journey.

Sometimes when we support organizations with worthwhile causes, we don't always immediately see the rewards of our efforts. We continue on through faith, knowing that God has entrusted us with *His* work. In many ways, we are like farmers who prepare the land, plant the seeds, and wait for the harvest. We take in children in need, take care of their physical and emotional needs, plant seeds of spirituality, nurture them, and maintain faith that God will reward our efforts and reward us with a bountiful harvest. When the harvest comes forth, we must take the time to thank God for allowing us the opportunity of doing *His* work. We can keep on in faith, knowing that we are making a difference, one child at a time.

HISTORICAL PICTURES

Recently I asked if anyone had any historical pictures or articles about the Free Will Baptist Children's Home they may be willing to share. I am still in need of that information.

In May of this year, we will be celebrating 85 years of service to children and families. We are in the process of updating our historical summary, and would love to hear from you.

Please contact me with any information you are willing to share with us about your experiences with your child care ministry.

Thank you,
Cynthia Batten

CHURCH FINANCE ASSOCIATION

THE CHURCH FINANCE ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD *February 15, 2005*

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the Membership of the Church Finance Association, Inc. will be held as follows:

Place: Pleasant Hill Church, Pikeville, NC

Date: February 15, 2005

Time: 10:30 A.M.

The purpose of this meeting is:

1. To review the financial condition of the Association and to act on the financial report.
2. The election of one (1) member of the Board of Directors to hold office for a term of five years.
3. The transaction of any other business which may properly come before the meeting.

You are urged to attend the meeting in person. However, membership holders who do not expect to attend are requested to sign, date, and return the proxy provided. The execution of this proxy will not affect your right to revoke such proxy or to vote in person should you later decide to attend the meeting.

*By Order of the Board of Directors,
Hubert S. Burruss, Secretary*



APPRECIATION CELEBRATION INVITATION

The Board of Directors of Cragmont Assembly cordially invite you to attend an Appreciation Dinner honoring John and Arlinda Williams for 25 years of dedicated service and love to Cragmont.

There will be two dinner celebrations. The first will be Friday, March 18, 2005 at Elm Grove Church in Ayden and the second will be Saturday, March 19, 2005 at Everett Chapel Church in Clayton. Both events will begin at 7 P.M.

The purpose of these dinners is to allow Free Will Baptists to come and express their appreciation to John and Arlinda for 25 years of service and commitment to Cragmont. John and Arlinda request no gifts for themselves—only your presence. We do invite you to express your thanks to them by bringing a special love gift for Cragmont.

The cost for the meal is \$5 per person. Fill out the R.S.V.P. form below and return to Bryant Hines, Planning and Marketing Director, 203 Teachey Court, New Bern, NC 28562 as soon as possible. Deadline for reservations is March 1, 2005. Please register early as space is limited. We look forward to seeing you!

CELEBRATION RESERVATION REQUEST

(Detach and return)

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone (_____) _____

Total Number Attending (please enclose \$5 per person payable to Cragmont) _____

Please Indicate Which Night and Place:

____ Friday, March 18 at
Elm Grove Church in Ayden.

____ Saturday, March 19 at
Everett Chapel in Clayton.

RETURN FORM TO:

Bryant Hines
Planning and Marketing Director
203 Teachey Court
New Bern, NC 28562

PASTORS/DEACONS ENRICHMENT SEMINAR 2005

April 21-23 are the dates for our second enrichment seminar. Dr. David Hines again will lead this seminar with "Serving Through Leadership" as the theme. This second retreat will be a meaningful continuation of the material shared in 2004 as well as a tremendous opportunity for first-time participants. The schedule is planned for a Thursday night arrival, seminars on Friday morning and evening (afternoon free), and Saturday morning. The seminar concludes with lunch on Saturday. Churches are encouraged to send both pastor and deacons by covering the \$85 seminar cost (includes three nights lodging and five meals. Cost if staying in the dorm is \$70). Fill out the registration form below and return it as soon as possible. Payment is due upon arrival. Register soon! This event will fill quickly.

PASTORS/DEACONS ENRICHMENT SEMINAR 2005

(Detach and return)

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone (_____) _____

Room Preference: Main Building Upstairs _____ Downstairs _____

Motel _____ Dorm _____

(Room assignments filled on a first received basis)

RETURN FORM TO:
Cragmont Assembly
1233 North Fork Road
Black Mountain, NC 28711

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE 2005

April 1-3	Morning Star
April 21-23	Pastor/Deacon Enrichment
June 6-11	June Women's Conference
June 13-18	Cragmont Youth Conference
June 20-25	Christian Cadet Conference
June 27-July 2	AFC/YFA Conference
July 4-9	Bed, Breakfast, and Blessing
July 11-16	General Youth Conference II
July 18-23	General Youth Conference I
July 25-30	Young People's Bible Conference
August 1-6	August Women's Conference
September 12-15	Minister's Conference
October 17-20	Fall Festival of Gospel Music
December 1-4	Christmas at Cragmont

2005 CRAGMONT COOK-OFF

Participation in the 2004 Cook-Off more than doubled our initial year of 2003. Twenty churches raised \$16,500 for Cragmont. NOW is the time to plan your cook-off for 2005.

The concept of our cook-off is simple. Every FWB Church knows about having a dinner or selling plates to raise money. We're very good at it and most of our current church facilities were built with funds raised by having dinners. Cragmont asks for a day—just one dinner or sale sometime during the year—from each church. You have your menu, your prices—you know your people and community. Commit this one dinner to Cragmont and send us the proceeds. The key to the success of our cook-off is PARTICIPATION. Many churches having one dinner equals great success. Plan now to have a dinner for Cragmont during 2005.

Contact Bryant Hines at (252) 637-7171 if you have questions or need further information.



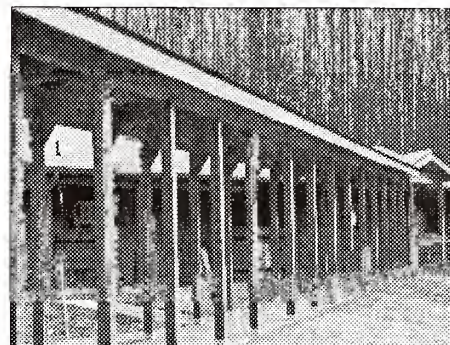
COMING SOON

The Second Annual Cragmont Spring Swing Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday, April 16, 2005 at Carolina Pines Golf and Country Club in New Bern, NC. Contact Bryant Hines at (252) 637-7171 or e-mail <bryanthines5@aol.com> if you have questions or need further information.

NEW HEIGHTS UPDATE: THE JOURNEY BEGINS!

The vision of our New Heights Campaign officially began its journey as construction on our covered walkway between the main building and the dining hall began the second week in November. The walkway is now complete and construction on the new roof covering the Dining Hall deck has begun.

This particular project is being funded by the State Laymen's League and we thank them for their dedicated support! The next scheduled structure will be a new housing facility to add much needed bed space to the mountain. Continue to pray for our New Heights Campaign.



CHURCH VISITATION

Bryant Hines, Cragmont's Planning and Marketing Director, is currently scheduling his church calendar for 2005. If you would like to have him visit your church, group, or organization to share the view and vision of Cragmont please call him at (252) 637-7171; e-mail <bryanthines5@aol.com>.



HOME MISSIONS & EVANGELISM

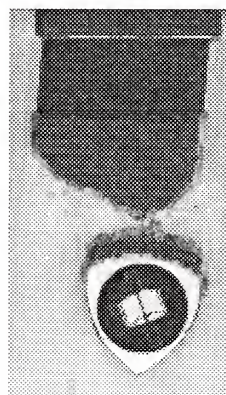


BAPTISTS AND SCOUTING BUILDING VALUES TOGETHER



*Zig Ziglar, Chairman of the Board,
The Zig Ziglar Corporation*

"For a young boy, love is spelled *t,i,m,e*. Timeless principles are learned in Scouting. We realize the dramatic impact of Scouting when we see that 14 percent of the Scouts who earn the God and Country emblem go into the ministry on a full-time basis. Can you imagine anything that would be any more effective? Yes, love is spelled *t,i,m,e*, and every bit of time that you spend bringing a Scouting unit into your church under your jurisdiction will be a complete demonstration of love and concern for these youngsters. I encourage you: Get involved in Scouting in your church. You'll be glad that you did.



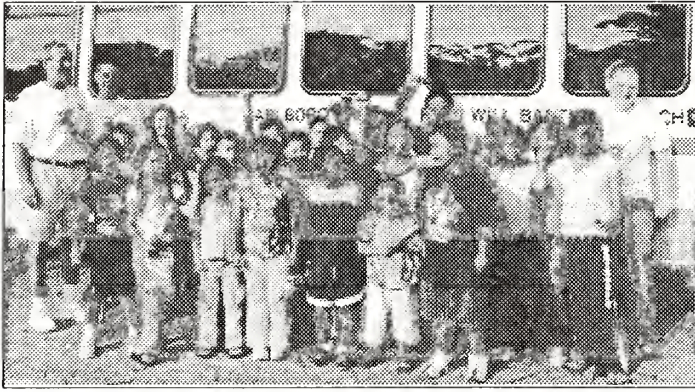
The Boy Scouts of America is delivering a message to youth, our Scouting parents, and the general public that morals, values, spirituality, manners, ethics, caring, respect, and duty are as important today as ever. We are committed to our mission of providing a program of ethical values for young people.

There may never be a more important time than now to let the country know that Scouting still believes in America's young people and its traditional family values, and they are worth the investment of both time and money.

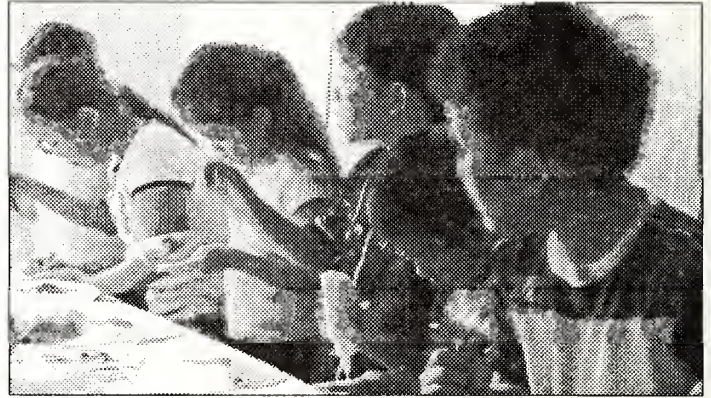
Mission Statement of the Boy Scouts of America
The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.

For more information on how to begin a scout unit in your church, contact: David C. Hansley at (252) 746-4963 or e-mail <asssistant@ofwbhomemissions.org>.

THE CHURCH IN THE HILLS



VBS July 2004



Crafts—VBS July 2004

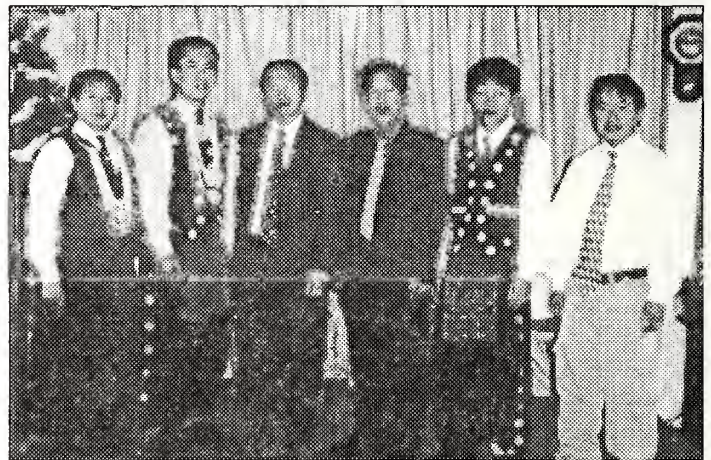
In the hills of the Blue Ridge mountains, you will find a church snugly in the valley. This church is called the First Lao Evangelical (LE) Church of Valdese, NC. Since the beginning of this church in 1993, this congregation of people who love the Lord have shared their lives by sharing and serving. In 1993, two young H'Mong Christians, Joe Yang and Kong Yang, organized this church in Valdese. Soon Wa Lang Yang was invited to assist in the work. These men have continued to serve to the present.

Valdese LE church has grown to be able to offer a full church service available to all people. This church offers Sunday School and a youth program. This church is one of the 15 churches with whom the Board of Home Missions and Evangelism of OFWB work through the Lao Evangelical Churches of America.

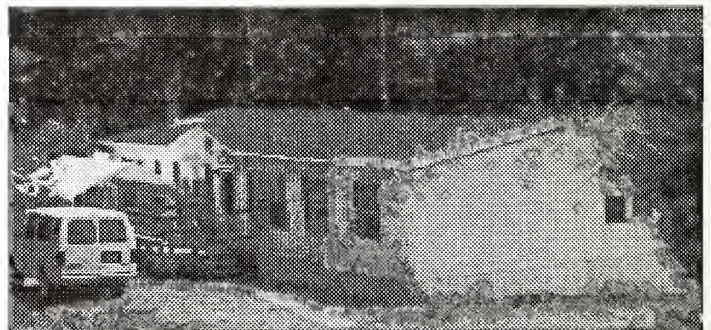
In July 2004, the Sunday School Ministry and Home Missions and Evangelism, along with Marlboro Church, Farmville, NC, in the Central Conference, conducted Vacation Bible School for the Valdese Church. This church had never had a Vacation Bible School. It was truly a learning experience for everyone. Present were more than 50 H'Mong youth who hungered for the word of God. Many blessings were received by all involved during this week long endeavor.



Pastor Thao Yang (right) and wife Dao Xiong (left).



(L-R) Pastor Thao Yang; Pastor Long Yang; President Nelson Xiong; Vice President Kong Yang; Secretary Ying Yang; and Treasurer Yia Yang.



First Lao Evangelical (LE) Church of Valdese, NC



CONVENTION 2005

"Convention 2005" is just three months away! As you recall, the 2004 Convention delegation voted overwhelmingly to move the annual meeting from September to May beginning this year. Mount Olive College will remain our host for this exciting three-day session May 17-19, 2005, which begins with the Convention Worship Service on Tuesday evening at 7:30 P.M. The Wednesday and Thursday sessions will provide important information from the 11 denominational ministries, plus displays, workshops, business sessions, and much more.

Church letters and report packages will be mailed soon. We prayerfully request that each church return the requested information as soon as possible. Please remember that your Convention operates mainly as a result of your contributions. For some churches this will mean a second contribution in the same fiscal year. This will be a one-time situation that has occurred due to the change in meeting times. We sincerely ask that your church make the necessary adjustments in order to include your yearly gift. Remember that minister/delegate registration fees are not to be considered as a part of your annual contribution.

More detailed information about Convention 2005 will appear in the March and April issues of *The Free Will Baptist*. Questions and constructive suggestions are always welcome. Contact Buddy Sasser, Convention Services Director, by phone at (252) 746-4963, by e-mail at <buddy@ofwbheadquarters.org> or by "snail" mail at P.O. Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513.

GOD OPENING NEW DOORS

by The Reverend Garland Suggs

Member of the Executive Committee of the Pee Dee Association

Oh, how I love the smell of "fresh dirt"! Don't you? While the days are still cold here in southeastern North Carolina, one of the things I look forward to is breaking the soil for the first time in early spring. I look forward to the wonderful things brought by spring such as the newness of life and the freshness in the air. It reminds me of the new opportunities God gives us when we acknowledge Him and follow His leading. That new life and growth is something that God is blessing the Original Free Will Baptists with in 2005. I believe God is opening doors for Free Will Baptists like never before and what a wonderful opportunity for us all to be a part of God's exciting work. Isn't it wonderful that God would allow us to make an impact for His glorious Kingdom?

Since the early days of the Original Free Will Baptist Convention, pastors and delegates have been gathering in the fall of the year to conduct the business of our Convention. Hurricanes certainly have not been our friends. You probably remember cutting some Conventions short in the past because of hurricanes or tropical storms. Also, the issue of completing the harvest made the fall a difficult time for farmers to attend the Convention. After much deliberation, the Convention decided to move the date to May. The month of May should prove to be a more suitable time for everyone. Our desire is to see even more delegates and pastors because of the change to the spring of the year. And you should be looking for new faces this year at the Convention, because our brothers and sisters in Christ from the Paul Palmer Conference in Georgia are now official members of our Convention. I know you will all join me in welcoming them. Another new aspect of our Convention is the change

from General Administrator to Director of Convention Services. The Rev. Buddy Sasser will be serving in this new position. Mr. Sasser will be a great servant to our Convention, conference, and other ministries.

One of the ministries of our Convention is Mount Olive College. The College was founded by Original Free Will Baptists and has been a place of higher education for us, our children, our neighbors, and our friends. God is blessing Mount Olive College like never before. The College is getting ready to expand in wonderful new ways because of a new building program. The building program will expand the College and allow it to open its doors to more students and to be more competitive in an ever-changing world. The building program will provide an academic complex, communications center, and a wellness center. As dreams of new complexes and centers begin to become a reality for Mount Olive College, the Ministerial Association hopes to make the dreams of the College's founding fathers come true by providing master level education for ministers and other religious professionals at the College. A task force on education for ministers is up and running and hoping to make recommendations in the near future.

"In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Proverbs 3:6).

As we look forward to a bright new year as Original Free Will Baptists, we must always remember to acknowledge God and allow Him to direct us. I believe He has brought us to this place of newness and growth, and if we acknowledge and follow Him, He will continue to lead us in all His ways.

CAMP VANDEMERE

THE NEW YEAR BRINGS NEW OPPORTUNITIES

"Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me" (Matthew 16:24). To make a difference this New Year what are we as individuals going to do and what are we as a church going to do?

PUT CHRIST FIRST

Being true to Christ is devoting our all to Him. Christ should be in the center of all of our decisions. Daily prayer and reading God's Word *should* be important for us. Seeking to please Christ should be important to us.

Being devoted to Christ means following Him. Witnessing to others is one important way we can follow Christ. Being willing to do whatever Christ asks of us is following Him. Denying what we want and doing what He wants is following Him.

The church is to follow after Christ and serve Him, also. Only attending Sunday and Wednesday services is not enough. All of the ministries of the church need to be active and not just have a name. Dedication to God will bring dedication to the church.

For Christ to stand out in our lives and in our churches this New Year we must be dedicated to Christ and put Him first.

THIS NEW YEAR

The camp will start providing linens for all campers and those who stay in the family lodge. This will include: sheets, towels, and washcloths. Bedspreads and pillows will also be provided. This will be wonderful for the children this year at camp.

NEW CAMP PRICE LIST

Dorms—\$12 per person per night; Lodge—\$45 per lodge per night; Week of Summer Camp—\$85; (not including director activity fee, if applies)

2005 CAMP SCHEDULE

April 8–9	Mt. Zion Women's Conference
May 21	Open House Gospel Singing
June 3–4	State Layman's League Retreat
June 5–10	Summer Camp (Directors: Tim and Gail Heath, (252) 638-3808 and Wesley Taylor, (252) 745-3171)
June 10–11	Watson Grove Church Retreat
June 12–17	Tarboro First Summer Camp
June 20–23	Women's Week of Camp (Director: Judith Kennedy, (910) 298-4311)
June 24–26	Camp Reserved
June 26–July 1	Summer Camp (Directors: Curtis and Kristie Ramsey, (910) 324-1507)
July 1–3	Juniper Chapel Church Retreat
July 5–8	Little Rock Retreat
July 10–15	Summer Camp (Director: Eva Mae Clark, (252) 637-5346)
July 16	Camp Reserved
July 18–22	Summer Camp (Director: Berry Hodowanic, (252) 249-0133)
July 25–29	Summer Camp (Directors: Justin Mosley and Wesley Taylor, (252) 745-3171)
Aug. 1–5	Summer Camp (Director: John Thompson, (252) 633-0025)
Aug. 5–7	Peace Church Retreat
Aug. 12–13	White Oak Grove Church Retreat
Aug. 19–20	Singin' By the River
Aug. 26–27	Piney Grove Church Retreat
Sept. 9–10	Boy Scout Weekend

****Please invite the Camp Manager to your church for a camp presentation/slide show.**
Wesley Taylor, Camp Manager (252) 745-3171 (office), (252) 514-3222 (cell).

Dear Fellow Ministers:

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We hope you have enjoyed a blessed holiday season and that 2005 holds even greater blessings for your ministry.

We are pleased to announce that the 2005 Mid-Year Spiritual Life Banquet sponsored by the Ministerial Association will be on Friday, March 18 at 7 P.M. We will meet at Stoney Creek Church, Goldsboro, NC.

We look forward to this special evening of good fellowship, a great meal, and an inspiring program by Dr. David Hines.

All ministers and your spouses are cordially invited to attend. If there are ministers' widows in your church, please advise them of the banquet and invite them to attend as a guest of the Ministerial Association.

Please mark your calendar to attend.

Sincerely,
Clifford Ball, Secretary

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

REGISTRATION FORM MORNING STAR WOMAN'S CONFERENCE April 1-3, 2005 • Speakers: Willem and Lydia van der Plas

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Church: _____

Emergency Contact/Person and Phone Number: _____

If, due to health reasons, you require downstairs accommodations, please check here: _____
You do not have to be an Auxiliary member or even a church member to attend the conference.

Mail this registration form along with a \$20 deposit to: Teresa M. Ball, 6144 Weyerhaeuser Road, Grifton, NC 28530.
A balance of \$45 will be due upon arrival at Cragmont. Make checks payable to: Cragmont Woman's Conference.

REGISTRATION FORM DAYSRING CONFERENCE

June 6-11, 2005 • Speaker: Janet McKinney

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Church: _____

Emergency Contact/Person and Phone Number: _____

If, due to health reasons, you require downstairs accommodations, please check here: _____
You do not have to be an Auxiliary member or even a church member to attend the conference.

The Day Spring Conference wishes to encourage participation of couples and of individual gentlemen, as well as our ladies.
Private accommodations for couples are available.

Day Spring Conference is being planned to "provide your own transportation" with no afternoon trips scheduled.
Afternoons will be free for your relaxation, travel, shopping, and enjoyment.
If you can't come for the whole week, no problem! Plan a partial week. Daily rates are \$20 per day.

Mail this registration form along with a \$20 deposit to: Teresa M. Ball, 6144 Weyerhaeuser Road, Grifton, NC 28530.
A balance of \$95 will be due upon arrival at Cragmont. Make checks payable to: Cragmont Woman's Conference.

REGISTRATION FORM AUGUST WOMAN'S CONFERENCE

August 1-6, 2005 • Speaker: Kitty Barnes

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Church: _____

Emergency Contact/Person and Phone Number: _____

If, due to health reasons, you require downstairs accommodations, please check here: _____ If you do not plan to ride the bus, please check here: _____
You do not have to be an Auxiliary member or even a church member to attend the conference.

Mail this registration form along with a \$20 deposit to: Teresa M. Ball, 6144 Weyerhaeuser Road, Grifton, NC 28530.
A balance of \$145 will be due upon arrival at Cragmont. Make checks payable to: Cragmont Woman's Conference.

An afternoon trip to the outdoor drama "Unto These Hills" is planned with an approximate total cost of \$70.
Please check here if you plan to attend "Unto These Hills" _____ and include a \$30 non-refundable deposit for your trip reservation.

There will be two afternoon trips into Asheville at \$10 each. (No deposit required).

WALNUT CREEK CHRISTMAS

Walnut Creek Church, LaGrange, was privileged to hold its first Christmas program using their new facilities. The church entered a building program in June to add five new classrooms, bathroom facilities, and additional space to their fellowship building. This program was near completion in late December giving us a chance and opportunity to exercise our new accommodations. The addition conveniently connects our church and fellowship building, offers handicapped accommodations, and access to a drive-through for easier entrance and protection from inclement weather. We are so proud that God has blessed us with these new conveniences and look forward to a new year when we may grow and expand to His glory. We hope to hold our dedication service at the final completion of this project.

A NOTE OF APPRECIATION

There are times in our lives when our language, as vast as it is, does not have adequate words to allow us to express our feelings. This is one of those times. I want to take this opportunity to personally thank all those individuals, churches, Sunday Schools/classes, auxiliaries, Layman's Leagues, conferences, youth groups, and others who took the time to send an encouraging card, send food, make a phone call, send an e-mail, send flowers, make a home visit, send a monetary gift for medical expenses, make a contribution to the Bruce Dudley Endowment for Retirement Homes, contribute to Mount Olive College, contribute to Cragmont Assembly or anything else you did during Bruce's illness and death to let our family know how much you cared. Please know that, as much as he was able to understand during those last few days, he was told of everything that was done and everyone who came by. He lived his life for his Lord and dedicated himself to Christian Ministry for over 44 years. He loved the Original Free Will Baptist denomination and passed away believing that we **could** and **should** make a difference in the world today to build the Kingdom of God. He believed in **practicing** teamwork rather than just talking about it. He believed that individually we can do a little, but together we can achieve so much more. We have ten ministries plus the Convention that deserve our teaming efforts to grow the Kingdom. Bruce's heart epitomized the slogan for Retirement Homes, "People Helping People in Jesus' Name." He left a legacy of love and hope for the future of the denomination that he loved so much. May we continue to use our spiritual talents and gifts to carry the banner for our Lord. Again, thank you from the bottom of my heart.

—Mary Dudley

SMYRNA CHURCH NEWS



Pictured left to right are Karson Fair (Little Miss Benson) and Savak Allen (Miss Benson). Savak, a member of Smyrna Church (Cape Fear Conference) is a freshman at UNC-Wilmington. The two are posing for a picture after they lit Benson's Christmas tree on December 3, 2004.



Pictured are children from Smyrna Church (Cape Fear Conference) in the Christmas program Leon.

BRINGING THE PAST INTO THE FUTURE

by Dr. De Wayne Eakes

We are familiar with this quote *Where there is no vision, the people perish...* (Proverbs 29:18a). We also know the truth that a vision that stretches us is necessary if we are to fulfill our calling as the body of Christ. In order to fulfill that calling we must have a leadership, especially pastoral leadership, that is well-trained so as to maximize our effectiveness in our calling to the gospel ministry. I remember vividly a conversation among many that transpired with my "father in the ministry," Dr. Joseph Ingram, in 1965. He emphasized that, "The calling to preach is a calling to prepare." The first reference book I owned was a *Cruden's Concordance* with this notation after his hand-written inscription: 2 Timothy 2:15. He was not implying that education can make a minister or preacher—only God by His grace can do that—but he was saying that all of us need to do everything we can to be the very best that we can be in fulfilling this sacred calling and privilege to serve God.

Pastoral leadership in the local congregation is a critical issue for health, stability, and growth among the faithful. This is in no way to mitigate the importance of strong, stable, committed, and capable lay leadership. As Dr. Elmer Towns stated, "Everything rises or falls on pastoral leadership. The pastor's leadership is the indispensable ingredient for growth." This may be an overstatement, but it does highlight the crucial role of pastoral leadership in the local church. Dr. Randall Lolley, past president of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary had this to say in a lecture delivered April 16, 1989, at First Baptist Church, Wilson, NC: "Pastoral leadership is an incredibly important and essential element in the free church tradition." James E. Means added, "The crisis of leadership deficiency may well be one of the most pervasive and pernicious problems

facing contemporary Christianity.¹ "The research project conducted in 1989–90 confirmed what most of us already realized—that we in the OFWB Church have a serious "crisis in leadership." This is true both in numbers of ministers available to serve churches and in the preparation for ministry in the twenty-first century.

In checking with our denominational headquarters at Ayden, I learned that as of December 21, we had a total of 15 churches reporting they were seeking a pastor. These figures were from the Albemarle, Central, Eastern, and Western Conferences. Figures were not available from the Cape Fear, Pee Dee, Piedmont, or Paul Palmer Conference. There were 18 available ordained ministers at this time and 28 licensed ministers. We always have available ministers, but, for whatever reasons, having more ministers available than churches does not mean that all churches will call a pastor. Also, under the policies of our ordaining councils/examining boards which agree with our *Articles of Faith*, licensed ministers cannot be called as pastor. They can supply or fill the pulpit according to the specifications of their respective ordaining councils/examining boards.

This is a great "time" for the added emphasis on education for ministers. This is a great moment in both our denomination's and Mount Olive College's history for the appointment of this Task Force on Education for Ministers. It also addresses the elements of the vision for Mount Olive College, as held by those who led OFWBs to found Mount Olive College. Moving toward providing the opportunity for master degree level work for ministers and others majoring in religion is fulfilling the founders' original vision for a seminary for OFWBs. It is truly a movement in the direction of *Bringing the*

Past Into the Future. This task demands a great deal of fervent prayer, careful planning, extensive work, and much patience in realizing this crucial need for the health and vitality of both our OFWB Church and Mount Olive College.

To address this need the *Task Force on Education for Ministers* has been named by our Convention President, the Rev. Fred Baker. Other persons may be added to the committees or called on as resource persons or for consultation as we proceed. On February 15, each of the four committees will meet at Mount Olive College with the steering committee. Committee #1 will meet at 9:30 A.M., committee #2 will meet at 12:30 P.M., committee #3 will meet at 2:30 P.M., and committee #4 will meet at 3:30 P.M. The Task Force will report to the May session of the Convention on the progress of the work to date. Please make the work of this Task Force a matter of prayer. There is a list of the committees and their assignments included as well as a list of the members of each committee.

¹For further information on this topic, refer to my book *The Crisis of Leadership* (Mount Olive, NC: Mount Olive College Press, 1995).

COMMITTEES AND PROPOSED MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE

1. Committee on the Education of Churches on the Role and Work of Pastoral Ministry, the meaning of Christian Vocation, and fostering Spiritual Vitality:
Dr. David Hines, Chair
Dr. Greg Day
The Rev. Fred Baker
The Rev. Frank Harrison
The Rev. Bryant Hines
The Rev. Wayne King
Lynette Sumerlin
2. Committee on Continuing Education for Pastors and Ministers:
The Rev. Frankie Baggett, Chair

(Continued on next page)

The Rev. Doug Skinner
The Rev. William Mobley
Kitty Barnes
Carolyn Jernigan
The Rev. Garland Suggs

The Rev. David Parrish
The Rev. Sam Weeks
The Rev. Ray Wells
The Rev. Wayne Sheffield

Dr. W. Burkette Raper
The Rev. Buddy Sasser
Dr. Don Ribeiro
The Rev. Leon Grubbs

III. Committee on Baccalaureate and Post-baccalaureate (Seminary) Programs:
Dr. Michael Pelt, Chair
Dr. Ellen Jordan

IV. Committee on Financial Resources for Work of the Task Force and Implementation of its Recommendation (consultants, travel, scholarships, library, etc.)
The Rev. Jeff Daughtry, Chair

Steering Committee
Dr. DeEakes, Chair
Dr. Michael Pelt
The Rev. Frankie Baggett
Dr. David Hines
The Rev. Jeff Daughtry

Purpose statements: Sub Committees of the Task Force on Education For Ministers

1. Church and Minister Education Committee

This committee shall seek to inform the OFWB ministers and churches of the following:

- a. Articulate the various roles and skills needed for effective pastoral ministry, identity, and mission.
- b. Define and foster a broad understanding of the meaning of Christian vocation.
- c. Give attention to the spiritual formation which produces maturing Christians and growing churches. The work of this committee is largely related to helping our ministers and churches to recognize the need for a properly educated clergy by seeking to provide articles, pamphlets, and personal presentations to various publics of the OFWB Church wherever and whenever appropriate.

2. Continuing Education Committee

This committee shall:

- a. Identify the continuing education experiences that are currently available to our ministers within the framework of our Convention.
- b. Make recommendations for an expanded program of continuing education workshops, lectures, travel experiences, and conferences which focus on skills needed for preaching, pastoral care, church leadership, Christian education, and spiritual formation.

3. Baccalaureate and Post-baccalaureate Programs Committee

This committee shall:

- a. Identify the number of OFWB ministers who 1) have completed seminary, 2) have completed a baccalaureate degree, 3) associate degree, and 4) have some college course work.
- b. Study the effectiveness of the current religion program at Mount Olive College related to preparation of students for pastoral ministry and preparation of students for seminary or divinity school.
- c. Evaluate the seminary programs of several quality schools on the basis of preparation for ministry and academic rigor.
- d. Investigate the possibility of cooperative relationships with seminaries/divinity schools toward the goal of offering seminary level work at Mount Olive College.
- e. Begin to investigate what would be required for Free Will Baptists to establish a seminary/divinity school.

4. Financial Resources Committee

This committee shall begin to identify and secure revenue sources to fund the programs described above.

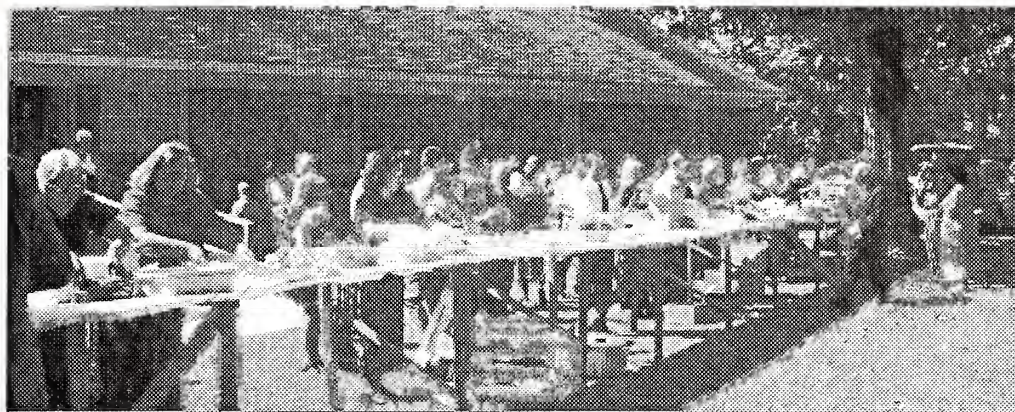
Possible sources should include investigation of grants. Specifically, funding is needed for the following items:

- a. Committee expenses for travel, research, surveys, etc.
- b. Library expansion
- c. Scholarships
- d. Endowed funds for special programs, lectures, workshops
- e. To recommend a sound financial structure to support and implement the final recommendations of this Task Force.

5. Steering Committee

This committee shall be composed of the chairs of each of the above committees, with the overall task force chair giving leadership to this committee. This committee shall have a coordinating function, insuring that the overall work of the task force is divided among the committees thus avoiding gaps and overlap. This committee shall prepare the overall report to the Convention of OFWB and to the College Board of Trustees.

GUM SWAMP CHURCH NEWS



Gum Swamp Church (Central Conference), celebrated its 246th Homecoming in September 2004 with special music by the adult and youth choirs. Church members, family, friends, and visitors also enjoyed a time of food and fellowship after the morning service.

On November 7, we had a Samaritan Purse Sunday; this was a first for us. In the past, we have made the shoeboxes and sent them off but this year the youth involved the whole congregation. During the morning worship service each person who made a shoebox placed it at the altar. The Rev. Kevin Jackson spoke on giving back not just at Christmas but also all year long. We collected over 60 boxes to be sent overseas to the children in need.



ANOTHER STORY OF GIVING

by Lisa Cooke

At the age of 7, my daughter, Hannah Cooke, decided she had worn her long brown hair for long enough. It was time for a haircut! As a mother I was unsure if this was a good idea or not. With Hannah being a very thoughtful and giving child it was no surprise that she wanted to do something with her hair. So after a little research, Hannah and I agreed on a hair cut only if someone else could use her beautiful hair. Over the years we had heard of other children and adults who donated their hair to "Locks of Love," a non-profit organization that makes hairpieces for financially disadvantaged children with long-term medical conditions. We felt this was the answer for which both of us were looking. Hannah and I read over the website (<http://www.locksoflove.org>) for information to assure the proper way to donate her hair. There are some requirements in order to donate useable hair, one being the 10" minimum length. So we measured Hannah's hair and found that we had 14" of hair to donate. The next step was to pick a date, and after reading stories and viewing some of the pictures of the children on the website, Hannah and I were thankful she was blessed with such beautiful hair. What better time to donate than Thanksgiving? I thought it would be hard to cut off her hair, but it actually felt great because I know that someone else will be able to have a ponytail like the one Hannah had worn so many times before. The only thing left to do was mail off the package. We went to our local post office with the donation form completed, 14" ponytail, and pictures. With one last kiss goodbye, Hannah's long, beautiful ponytail was on its way to its new home. My only wish is that in 5 or 6 years we can do this again with my younger daughter. (Note: Hannah is the daughter of Jim and Lisa Cooke of Belvoir and they attend Gum Swamp Church.)



POWHATAN CHURCH NEWS GREATEST GIFT IS LOVE—ALL YEAR LONG

by Rita Jones

Betty Strickland of Palmer Memorial in Garner was the guest speaker for the Woman's Auxiliary Pre-Christmas program on December 15. Her daughter helped out with special music. She spoke on the significance of the gold, frankincense, and myrrh the wise men brought as gifts to Jesus and asked each of us to consider what gifts we can bring to Him today.

The annual lighting of the "Tree of Hope," a fundraiser started by cancer victim Vicky Bagley who passed away on Thanksgiving Day, 1999, took place on December 18. This tree is decorated with purple glass ornaments and pink ribbons. People can reserve an ornament in honor or memory of a loved one by paying \$5. The Powhatan Relay for Life team sponsors the tree in Sister Bagley's memory and all proceeds go to the American Cancer Society. A group gathered for singing and sharing in the crisp evening and lit candles reflecting how they had been touched by cancer—survivors first, those whose spouse had been a cancer victim next, then those whose child or parent was a victim, and on and on until finally those who simply wanted to make a difference in the fight against cancer spoke.

THANK YOU

I wish to thank the churches, Sunday Schools, auxiliaries, and friends in North Carolina and Georgia for all the gifts, cards, letters, and prayers during the Christmas Season 2004. I will continue to think of you often with much love, many prayers, and many thanks.

Mrs. Eunice C. Morris
500 Pickwick Trail, #248
Durham, NC 27704

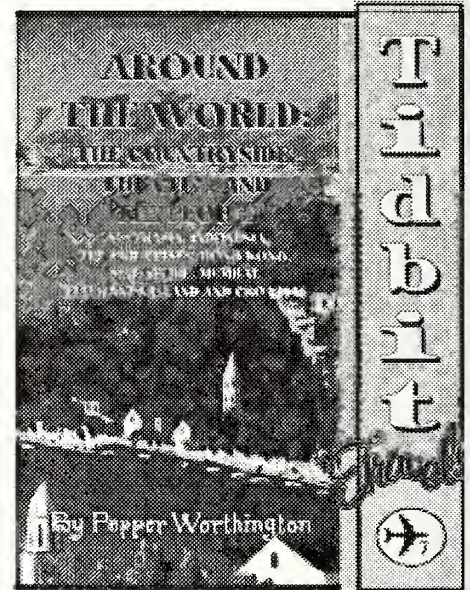
MOC PRESS PUBLISHES TIDBIT TRAVELS BOOK

Pepper Worthington. *Around the World: The Countryside, The City, and The People (Australia, Indonesia, The Philippines, Hong Kong, Singapore, Mumbai, Elephanta Island, and Croatia)*. Mount Olive: Mount Olive College Press, 2004. 233 pages.

Kinstonian and Kinston Free Press film critic, Pepper Worthington, is the author of a new book *Around the World: The Countryside, The City, and The People (Australia, Indonesia, The Philippines, Hong Kong, Singapore, Mumbai, Elephanta Island, and Croatia)*.

Worthington's travel book has a variety of eclectic interests from the aboriginals of Australia with a discussion of aboriginal art, to a curious boat ride to Elephanta Island where the 1,300 year-old carvings of the Hindu Shiva can be found. The main image is the Mahesamurti or three faces of Shiva—the Hindu trinity. Many photographs of the Hindu cave on Elephanta Island are in this chapter.

Other areas of interest to a reader include the Kowloon Bird Market, the Taoist Wong Tai Sin Temple in Kowloon, the Mayura Temple in Lombok, Indonesia, Tamara Fielding's Indonesian shadow



puppets, the Sri Mariamman Temple in Singapore, the Jainest Temple in Mumbai. Black and white photographs are plentiful.

Worthington has been assigned to develop a Tidbit Travels Series for the Mount Olive College Press. Her newest book is the seventh one in the series.

DAYBREAK ...to Bruce Dudley



The day broke
like a plate
tiny pieces of psyche
scattered:
morning sunlight
a reminder
of vested vision
a hint
of now newness
with time,
its arm of hope,
steeled
against the darkness
of the night.
—Pepper Worthington

In the Spotlight

Crab Point OFWB Church Morehead City, North Carolina Eastern Conference



Dr. Pepper
Worthington
Circuit Writer

Rev. Michael
Warning
Circuit Artist

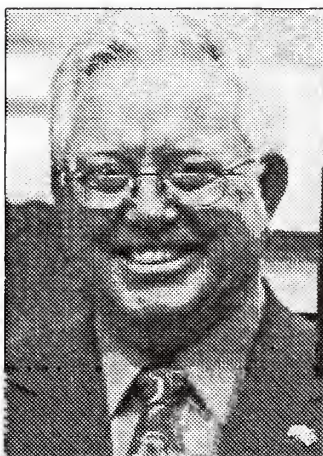
Editor's Note: The Free Will Baptist announces the beginning of a new column, *In the Spotlight*. The Rev. Michael Warning and Dr. Pepper Worthington are acting as circuit witnesses to our church life across the denomination. Rev. Warning's pen and ink sketch and Dr. Worthington's account of a Sunday service hope to awaken a new interest in what is going on in our churches across the denomination. Each issue of *The Free Will Baptist* in 2005 will feature a church visited by our circuit witnesses.

Deacon John Odom welcomed the people and led the hymn singing at Crab Point Church. The congregation sang *Alleluia*, *Jesus Saves*, and *Tell Me the Story of Jesus*, music essential to the spirit of the service. The trio, John Odom, Cleta Buck, and Kelly Odom, sang, *Thank God, I Am Free From This World of Sin*, and *Washed In The Blood of Jesus*.

Licensed minister J. R. Clark was encouraging his church members to participate in the moving of the spirit across the congregation. He himself is dedicated to becoming an ordained minister from the Eastern Conference by enrolling in the Modular Religion Major Program of Mount Olive College at New Bern. Clark declared privately, "I attend a Mount Olive College class one night a week for four hours, but I have 20 hours of homework. I am working hard to get my credentials in order and I hope to apply my 40 hours from the Religious Modular Program to an associate degree from Mount Olive College. That takes 64 hours, but when I'm finished I should have 82 hours," he said in front of the church before the service. "God has blessed me," he added.

The choir stood to sing, *I'm Moving Up To Glory Some Happy Day*. Mary

Sue Clark followed with the popular *Mary Sue's Moment*, a short moment of reflection to invite the congregation to have a devotional thought with her. "Gardens are in our souls," stated Mary Sue, "and I want to plant special seeds—seeds of hope, seeds of kindness, seeds of forgiveness, seeds of understanding."



J. R. Clark, licensed minister at Crab Point Church, is enrolled in the Modular Religion Major Program of Mount Olive College at New Bern.

**Dr. Bobby Taylor,
President of the Free Will
Baptist Children's Home**

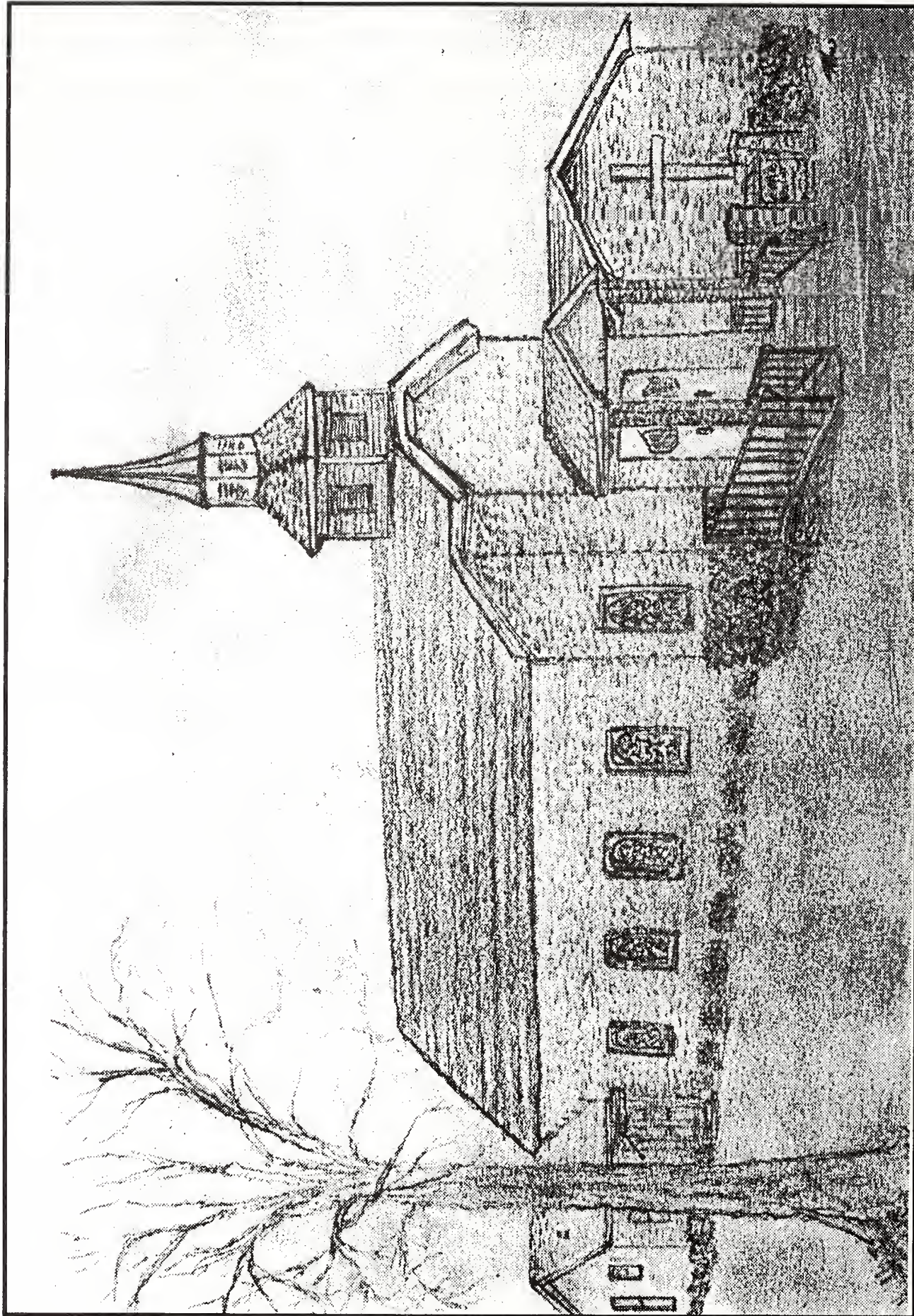
"It's always a privilege to be in God's house. We have our circuit

writers here today and others. It's a small world and a glorious one. I thank you all for caring for children. The Free Will Baptist Children's Home has been caring for children for 84 years with approximately 2,000 children coming through the Children's Home," noted Dr. Bobby Taylor, president of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home.



Dr. Bobby Taylor delivered the sermon, *Prerequisite To A Christian Life*, at Crab Point Church.

"The Children's Home was first mentioned as an idea in the 1913 Convention of Original Free Will Baptists.



Crab Point Church
Morehead City, North Carolina
Eastern Conference

It grew out of the Convention and became a reality in 1920 with four children. We are still here because of God's will," Taylor declared.

"Today we have 36 residential children and four in college," he added. "They are our children and they do not just pass through and are separated from us. In other institutions children are required to age out but not with us. Our children, many of them, return once a year—ministers, social services people, teachers, laborers, truck drivers. The ramifications of this large group of people is enormous," Taylor reported.

Three Classifications of Children

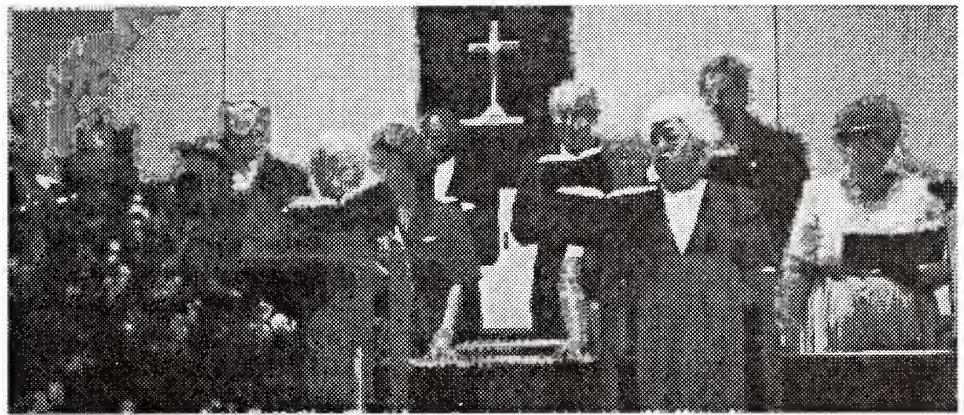
"We basically today serve teenagers," explained Taylor. Some 97 percent of our children are teenagers. The children we serve fit into three classifications. They are abandoned, abused, or neglected," he noted. "Many of the children experience emotional abuse, many are abandoned by a parent who is in poverty or uncaring. Today on the news you hear of a husband who comes home and kills his three children and wife and then kills himself," he said.

"The Free Will Baptist Children's Home began as an orphanage in 1920. In 1957 we changed the name from Free Will Baptist Orphanage to Free Will Baptist Children's Home, though most of the people in Middlesex still think of us as the orphanage," he noted.

Prerequisite To a Christian Life

"Let us turn to Deuteronomy 6:4-5," continued Taylor. "Here we read of the prerequisite to a Christian life—love of the Lord with all our heart, with all our soul, and with our might. And we are asked to teach this prerequisite to our children," added Taylor.

"It is a prerequisite to all of our Christian life to love the Lord. This is the prerequisite before you can be the best mother, father, or grandparent. And parenting is so hard. It is a 24-7 job—24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The reason we as parents get so tired is because we are always mom and



The Crab Point Church choir sang, I'm Moving Up To Glory Some Happy Day.

dad. If you're a parent, you're always a parent," he stressed.

Three Basics In Building Strong Family Relationships

"There are three basics in building strong family relationships," noted Taylor. "First, we need to build a strong religious foundation in our children's lives. Second, we need to build a strong family foundation in our children's lives. The extended family becomes important and we need to find time and ways to keep the ties no matter how scattered we

are. As we build those precious memories, members of the family live. Third, we need to build the foundation of self-worth in our children. Self-worth is not the same as self-esteem. We know we have value because we are children of God. We are created in the image of God and the moment we accept Christ is the moment we are heirs of Jesus Christ. And that's how you'll have the greatest value," declared Taylor.

"Then children can dream their dreams for with God all things are possible," he concluded.



Active youth at Crab Point Church include (from left to right) Jill Odom, Alan Buck, Kelley Fuller, Kaitlyn Parisi, Rebecka Mantey, and Colby Buck.



Deacons at Crab Point Church include (left to right) John Odom, Jerry Bowers, Leroy Weeks, Tom Bennett, and Earl Fulcher.

SPECIAL SERVICES WORKSHOP

The Central Conference will hold a workshop on Tuesday, February 8, 2005
at First Free Will Baptist Church of Greenville from 7–9 P.M.
This workshop will focus on special services for Holy Week, Easter, and through Pentecost.
Pastors will share from their experiences in leading their congregations in worship.
All are invited to attend!

Prayer is the peace of our spirit,
the stillness of our thoughts,
the evenness of our recollection,
the sea of our meditation,
the rest of our cares,
and the calm of our tempest.

—Jeremy Taylor

SUBMISSION DEADLINE INFORMATION FOR ARTICLES AND ADVERTISING

The deadline for submissions to *The Free Will Baptist* is the 5th day of the month prior to publication. (Example: Items to be published in a January issue must be in no later than the 5th day of December.) You may submit items by any of the following methods:

- E-mail to <editor@fwbpress.com>,
- Fax to (252) 746-9248, Attn: Editor,
- Hand deliver, or
- Mail to: Editor, *The Free Will Baptist*
PO Box 159
Ayden, NC 28513.

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Place: Free Will Baptist Press • 3928 Lee Street • Ayden, NC

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Hope to see you there!

For more information, call (800) 849-3927 and speak with a bookstore representative.

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WESTSIDE CHURCH, Kinston, NC is seeking a full-time Senior Pastor. Please send resumés to: Brad Tilghman, Pulpit Committee Chairman, 2010 Gray-Tilghman Rd., Kinston, NC 28501, or contact him at (252) 522-5729.

REEDY BRANCH CHURCH, Pitt County, is seeking a full-time youth director. Any interested persons should send a resumé to: Reedy Branch Church, Youth Committee, 4457 Reedy Branch Rd., Winterville, NC 28590.

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they act like their parents
in spite of every effort
to teach them good manners.

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Cabin Church, Beulaville, NC
Charity Mission/Church, Whiteville, NC
Christian Chapel Church, Pink Hill, NC
Core Creek Church, Cove City, NC
Covenant Church, Hope Mills, NC
Crab Point Church, Morehead City, NC
Croatan Church, New Bern, NC
Cypress Creek, Whiteville, NC
Daly's Chapel Church, Seven Springs, NC
Daniel's Chapel Woman's Aux., Wilson, NC
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Deep Run Church, Deep Run, NC
Edgewood Church, Macclesfield, NC
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First Church, Goldsboro, NC
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Gum Swamp Church, Greenville, NC

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Meeting dates and locations are subject to change. You are encouraged to call in advance to confirm meeting schedules.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 Spring Break for Traditional Students— Mount Olive College	2 Spring Break for Traditional Students— Mount Olive College	3 Spring Break for Traditional Students— Mount Olive College	4 Spring Break for Traditional Students— Mount Olive College	5 ANNUAL SUNDAY SCHOOL INSTITUTE — Spring Break for Traditional Students—Mount Olive College
6	7 Seminary Task Force Meeting at MOC — Central Conference Layman's League, Friendship Church, near Farmville, NC 6:30 P.M.	8	9	10 Layman's League Executive Board Meeting, VFW Building, Snow Hill, NC 7 P.M.	11 Cape Fear Talent Competitions	12 Cape Fear Talent Competitions
13	14	15	16	17	18 Appreciation Banquet for John & Arlinda Williams	19 Eastern Conference Spring Auxiliary Convention Westside Church — FWB League Convention, Hickory Chapel
20 Foreign Missions Telethon PALM SUNDAY	21	22 Easter Convocation Mount Olive College	23	24	25 Easter Break for Traditional Students— MOC	26 Easter Break for Traditional Students— MOC
					GOOD FRIDAY	
27 EASTER Easter Break for Traditional Students— MOC	28 Easter Break for Traditional Students— MOC	29	30	31	NOTES:	

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POWER VERSE

For, lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone;
The flowers appear on the earth; the time of the
singing of birds is come, and the voice of the turtle
is heard in our land (Song of Solomon 2:11-12).

We need contributors for these columns:

Perspective
The Pastor's Wife
Youth Beat
Inside the Nest
Senior Moments
Single...and Lovin' It!
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If you you would like to contribute to any of these columns or would like more information, contact the editor at (800) 849-3927 ext. 227 or by e-mail at <editor@fwbpress.com>.

THE CALL TO PASTORAL MINISTRY

by C. H. Overman, Editor Emeritus

In recent years, in various articles and writings, we have been reminded of the need for pastors. The list of churches seeking pastors has been constant and perhaps increasing in the past few years, although the list of ordained ministers is greater than the number of churches; thus, it would seem that each pulpit could be readily filled, but such is not the case. The average age of our ministers is much greater than the national average, and a number of our ministers have reached the age when pastoral ministry is not viable, either because of age or health reasons. Of course, there are other reasons why a minister does not accept "a pastorate." Each one is responsible for discerning the will of God in this matter. Most of our retired ministers, with fifty years of service or more, find themselves busy in pulpit supply and other activities related to the ministry.

We can certainly praise God for those who have chosen to answer His call. The list of licensed ministers has increased, and more ordination services are being held as these men meet the qualifications for ordination. More are needed as the larger churches increase their staff with associate pastors, youth ministers, etc.

Section 2 of our *Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government...* defines "The Call" to the ministry:

"Having recognized that God calls His people into His service, no member shall take upon himself the public

Ministry of the Gospel unless he feels sure he is Divinely called to that Ministry. Each individual's Divine calling is unique and different. Such a calling must contain at least three elements.

"First, he must know the One who does the calling; i.e., he must be a Christian. No person can in truth say that he has been called into the Gospel Ministry unless he has a 'saving' relationship with the Father.

"Second, he must possess natural ability or abilities and be committed to improving the abilities he has and acquiring additional abilities that can be used in the services of the Ministry.

"Third, he sees the needs of God's people and is willing to be an instrument to help fill those needs. Further, he is willing to minister to those outside of Christ.

"Involvement in a call to the Gospel Ministry is a call to grow and prepare that the Ministry may serve God's purpose" (Hebrews 5:4, 1 Corinthians 9:16, Acts 13:2, Acts 20:28, 1 Timothy 4:13-16; and 2 Timothy 2:15).

In appointing the seventy and sending them forth, Jesus said to them: "...The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few; pray ye, therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest" (Luke 10:2).

Fellow Free Will Baptists, now is the time to pray!

Reflections

PERPLEXED? THERE IS AN ANSWER

by Marilyn B. Davenport

This feature is reprinted from the September 19, 1979 edition of The Free Will Baptist.

Today's young people are considering themselves grown-up just as soon as they learn about the birds and the bees. The trouble is the birds and bees were created in such a way that instincts are all they need to live by. Man is much more complex.

We are endowed with brains vastly superior to those of any other living creature, with unlimited potential to learn. The Lord intended for us to use this structural advantage in our beings to grasp for understanding of how to handle this knowledge before we tackle life with all its complexities and consequences.

Girls can hardly wait for the time when they are allowed to wear hose, heels, makeup, and other things which may cover up their childlike innocence. In fact, many are altogether too anxious to lose that precious quality.

Boys, many of whom are barely shaving yet, taunt and tease each other about whether or not they have made any conquests. They rarely stop to think about the unexpected consequences of unwise decisions.

What about alcohol and tobacco—even drugs? Certainly being able to handle any or all of these is an adult quality. Isn't that what men and women are using today to "enrich" their lives? Shouldn't the youth of our land—even every land—emulate such "adult" behavior?

Innocence and other virtues are qualities to be ashamed of now. One cannot be "in" unless he is doing his own thing (which is really everybody else's thing rather than his own).

Many preachers, teachers, and others in positions of authority are just like everyone else now, and even young children are beginning to call them by their first names. A lot of adults like this first-name basis, as it seems to give them an excuse not to

have to put their best foot forward for the younger generation. In too many instances they just teach what they are **paid** to teach anyway. A system of values, if not missing, is not as well structured as was formerly the case. Adult leaders liken themselves to teenagers, who in turn have nobody to look up to (since looking to God is out of the question and ridiculous!). It is no wonder many young people have the "I know as much or more than you do" attitude. It is not too unbelievable that in many cases they do know as much or more.

Children are often told "Such and such is true, because Mama and/or Daddy says so," when there is no other answer they can understand. Mama and Daddy should accept the fact (as children of God) that what He says is true just because God says so in the Bible. There should be no "But whys," "But hows," "But whens," etc., just as we tell our children when they question our answers.

When we read complex books we learn all we can from them, often even check outside sources of information; but we rarely fully understand their entire contents. Yet, we accept the fact that the contents are all true, because they are written by authors who know more than we do about the subjects.

Most of us do not comprehend how a television works, yet we enjoy its programs without even trying to understand how we receive them.

We ride around in automobiles, fully enjoying the benefits thereof, and leave the repairs and upkeep to those in the know.

As we read our Bibles, we should learn from the parts we can all understand and let this acquired knowledge pave the way to rich, full lives for us. The parts we do not understand we should not doubt, nor try

to prove or explain, but rather accept them without question as being beyond our understanding, and as being written by someone much more in the know than we.

We strive for high school, even college diplomas, knowing that we won't know everything there is to know when we graduate. In fact, the more we learn the more we realize there is to know.

We clean ourselves regularly, knowing we are constantly picking up germs and that we cannot possibly be perfectly clean.

We dress our best, knowing that someone where we are going will be dressing better.

Yet, how many of us will strive for perfection in our Christian lives, when we know we cannot reach the goal? Too often we turn to the predominant "nobody's perfect" attitude and use it as an excuse not to try. Everything in our lifestyles is becoming carefree and casual—even the things meant to be most meaningful.

In a poll for a popular TV game show, a high percentage said "yes" when asked the question, "Do you think that living together without marriage is no longer a sin?" In view of all recent happenings, the answer was not totally unexpected. But for the Christian, it is a sad day when such a prevailing attitude of permissiveness exists.

How can society defile our great Author and Creator by putting its own interpretations to even the parts of the Bible that anyone, even the young child, can understand? Doubt is taught, often by example, and is very contagious.

The things we strive for today are usually things that make us prosper financially. The Lord could have made us perfect, even rich; instead,

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we are given a choice of striving to do His will and reaping the vast rewards both now and evermore, or living our lives in the new generation way and suffering the consequences now and hereafter. The rewards for making the first choice may not be financial, neither can they be spent. Our money has a way of getting away from us, anyway. What we buy with it eventually wears out or loses its value.

People have always preferred listening to a preacher who is short and to the point—one who itemizes and organizes his sermons well. Perhaps, this is the reason the Lord, in essence, summarized the contents of the Bible and gave us a clear-cut, easy-to-understand guide to leading happy,

fulfilling, meaningful lives, when He gave us the Ten Commandments.

Even a toddler understands “Thou shalt” and “Thou shalt not,” if we use this terminology in telling him what he can and cannot do. And, after all, is this not the most important thing to understand? And how about “Ye must be born again”? Isn’t this clear and unmistakable?

Think about the shape God’s people were in when the Commandments were given to them, and compare it with the conditions that are spreading so rapidly today. Isn’t it time for the Ten Commandments to be reinstated, reiterated, reemployed, and reemphasized in our hearts and in our lives?

The reason we are created in the

first place is to glorify God. If we try to live by His Commandments, we are fulfilling this purpose to the best of our abilities. It, of course, should go without saying that we must accept Christ as our Savior; but sad to say, some learned men are suggesting that this is no longer necessary for meaningful living.

Young or old, we should take serious stock of our spiritual lives. We must not be swayed by every wind of doctrine, not even by sophisticated men of great knowledge who attempt to undermine the great truths of the Bible. These “scholars” are as close as next door, and often come to us in proverbial sheep’s clothing.

It is time for real Christians to take a stand!

THE TRAIL HAS BEEN TROD BEFORE

by Wade T. Jernigan

Much is being said about bringing the church back. Such a statement brings up all kinds of thoughts and questions. Just on the surface one is made to ask, “Back from where?” I dare say, not many would want to publicly admit that they know from where and others would not want to name from what. But what a return is needed seems to be the opinion of some. These generally, however, point out the problems but never deal with the prescriptions. They are somewhat like “lay doctors” who have no medical training. Pointing to the one who has symptoms of illness they proclaim, “He appears to be sick or is sick.” Much speculation then follows. Disagreement sets in. Division is wrought. No clear determination is made. Sick or seeming to be sick—what is the difference? The practice is applied with remedy. No change is made. Spiritual quackery has triumphed again.

God’s Word is clear in stating that what happened to Israel “were our examples” (1 Corinthians 10:6). This is true even in the formative years of

Israel. It is said of Abram, “And he went on his journeys from the south even to Beth-el, unto the place where his tent had been at the beginning...Unto the place of the altar, which he had made there at the first...” (Genesis 13:3–4a). Note that in Genesis 13:1 it reads, “And Abram went up out of Egypt....” These are significant words. Here the proposition is clear. Abram went back to Bethel, the place of the altar, the place of the beginning, the first (the start) from Egypt. What and how it is stated here must not be ignored. This tells from whence he came. Likewise, it tells to where he went. Every Bible student knows the implications.

Later, with Jacob, a very similar picture is drawn. Twenty years had elapsed since Jacob had been at Bethel, the place he described in the following words, “...How dreadful is this place! this is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven” (Genesis 28:17). In Genesis 31:13 God spoke to Jacob, “I am the God of Beth-el, where thou anointedst

the pillar, and where thou vowedst a vow unto me: now arise, get thee out from this land, and return unto the land of thy kindred.” Jacob, in a prayer, brought up the fact that the Lord had said to him,... “Return unto thy country, and to thy kindred, and I will deal well with thee” (Genesis 32:9). Again, God spoke to Jacob on the subject of return and said, “...Arise go up to Beth-el, and dwell there: and make there an altar unto God that appeared unto thee...” (Genesis 35:1).

Though the starting points for Abraham and Jacob were somewhat different both struck the trail back. It is said of Abraham “that he might be the father of all them that believe” (Romans 4:11). Further, it is declared that Abraham is, “the father of us all” (Romans 4:16). This being true, then it behooves believers to “...walk in the steps of that faith of our father Abraham...” (Romans 4:12). There is no question but what believers are all one in Christ (Romans 3:29) and as

(Continued on next page)

those who belong to Christ are "Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise" (Galatians 3:29). Think it not then strange that Christ called to the church at Ephesus, "Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else..." (Revelation 2:5).

Bringing the church back is a challenge. A challenge that can be met. Consideration should be given to these areas.

- I. Back to the Biblical Focus. "...Lift up your eyes and look on the fields" ... (John 4:35).
- II. Back to Biblical Faith. "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1).
- III. Back to Biblical Following. "...Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19).
- IV. Back to Biblical Fellowship. "But

if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship..." (1 John 1:7).

V. Back to Biblical Friendship. "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you" (John 15:13-14).

VI. Back to Biblical Force. "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

VII. Back to Biblical Finance (Funding) "Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given order to the churches of Galatia, even so do ye. Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath

prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come. And when I come, whomsoever ye shall approve by your letters, them will I send to bring your liberality unto Jerusalem" (1 Corinthians 16:1-3). Of significant note are the following in this quote. (1) "let every one of you," (2) "lay by him in store," (3) "your liberality."

Volumes could be written but why complicate the issue with much verbage? Conciseness here is the better virtue. Malachi, speaking for his God, said, "...Return unto me, and I will return unto you..." (Malachi 3:7). Some may say as Israel did when Malachi spoke the above, "Wherein shall we return?" Christ said, "...the way ye know" (John 14:4). Jeremiah's advice still holds: "...Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein". (Jeremiah 6:16).

Crumbs

by Elaine Swinson

A pyramid of boxes crowd the bedrooms, the living room, the kitchen, and the carport leaving aisles so small that our resolutions for dieting go immediately to the top of the list. Tall ones, short ones, heavy ones—they remind me of the march of the tin soldiers inching their way forward in preparation to attack.

Magic marker "hen scratchings" written hurriedly on the sides give only small clues as to their contents. I rack my brain trying to remember what "odd stuff from the kitchen" could possibly mean as I try to take inventory and move them to close proximity of where they really belong.

I stop momentarily as I recognize the handwriting of church folks that

helped us pack the wild assortment of our life's accumulations. Swallowing the lump that suddenly appeared and quickly blinking away the misty veil covering my eyes, I remember why we are here at Kenly Church.

Twenty-five years ago, Harold and I were bequeathed a very large basket by our Lord Jesus Christ. His funeral service was actually held over 2,000 years ago, but His estate is still being settled as each new person is born upon the Earth. Every single new citizen is allotted a portion of Jesus' vast estate, although no two persons ever receive the same endowment. It is quite clear that some never come forward to claim their share, because they cannot show proof of ownership. All children of

God must bring with them a love of Jesus in their heart and a commitment that they have accepted Him as their personal Savior before they can make their claim legal.

We looked at our basket and wondered what on Earth we could possibly do with such a cumbersome item that would only slow us down as we began our journey to serve Christ as a pastor and wife. It was really quite heavy and required both our hands to drag it along between us. It was no use even considering selling it at the local flea market or even giving it to one of our best friends, because God said it was especially made just for us.

Dragging the basket along, we stopped at Mount Zion Church

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(Onslow County) to rest. Placing our burden on the altar we began our work at Mount Zion, sure that the basket would be of no value to us as we all worked together and began to grow. As time passed, however, special needs, heartaches, and sadness suddenly appeared in our midst causing us to beg God for help. Under His guidance we were directed to the basket we brought with us when we began our journey. From the basket we were spiritually fed and nourished through every single opportunity that attacked our church family. As we prayed together, the food multiplied and the basket was filled to overflowing, replenishing not only what was taken out, but an extra portion added besides.

Years passed and the basket continued to serve the needs of all our people, never reaching the bottom or coming up short. Being a part of our "home church" was an experience like no other as they allowed us to mature under their cloak of love and kindness. Our babies were born and cherished by our church family as well as our own.

One day God impressed upon our hearts that we must take our basket and all the crumbs that we had gathered from sharing its contents, and move to share our gift with others. Fellowship Church and Calvary Church in Wilson, NC came together to begin a new life as Harmony Church. Struggling with our basket and our two daughters, we began our journey all over again becoming a part of this new creation. It really was amazing to realize that the one thing we brought with us that seemed so unnecessary was the very thing we needed the most.

Once again, God blessed us with the spiritual contents of our inheritance, giving us daily bread to sustain us as we served this dedicated group of people. For eight years we worshiped with them, rejoiced with them, and shared their burdens

while our love for them continued to grow. It was very difficult to grasp the handles of our basket and move to Free Union Church in Pinetown, leaving them behind, but, God left no doubt in his command for us to continue our journey.

Just as I began to see the signs of wear and tear on our bodies from the struggle of carrying our basket, God blessed us with new strength as we hoisted the now very heavy burden upon a new altar. Free Union became our home and our family for 12 wonderful years. With each passing year the needs became greater as those among us became ill, experienced family problems, were touched by the sadness of wars on foreign soils, became embroiled in worldly affairs, and sometimes lost their way from God. We fed our congregation many, many times from our basket full of blessings that God supplied. Our lives were joined together as we presented the Word of God for all to hear that would come. Our daughters, who were now grown, presented us with an extra special gift of 6 grandchildren. Surely, this was where our work was to end, with our family at Free Union.

God, however, had a completely different concept of where our journey would lead. We learned a valuable lesson at this time of our life. We should never, never try to work things out for ourselves and then tell God that this is what should happen. In His infinite wisdom, He told us to grab the handles of our basket and hit the road. Never had we been so mystified about God's plans for us as we set about gathering up the crumbs to carry with us to Kenly Church.

The sound of the train whistle as it roared through Kenly, one of the 22 times it passes each day, brought me back to the reality of the never-ending rows of boxes that simply would not move by themselves. Along with this realization was the understanding of why we had

stopped here on our continuing journey for Christ. The people here needed us to share with them our gift from God—our basket. Harold and I also have been made aware that we couldn't have gotten here without first going to the Mount Zion, Harmony, and Free Union churches first. Kenly wasn't an afterthought, it was charted on the map we are to follow. Every expression of kindness we have received during our short time here, gives us the feeling of comfort in knowing that we are just exactly where God wants us to be and for as long as He wants us here.

In my reverie of thoughts, I couldn't figure out why the weight of our basket had increased so much until I remembered the crumbs. Every time our church folks took from the bounty of the basket and received the blessings it provided, the results were so wonderful that it spilled over and made new blessings to share with others. When all these were gathered up and returned to its container, the contents had multiplied many times over, making it possible to have enough to share again and again. It is very clear in my mind that God's work could not be carried out at Kenly Church without the crumbs we gathered along the way.

I wonder if you have claimed your inheritance from God. Our invisible basket, which has become a part of our daily existence, is His legacy to all those we meet along life's way as we share His love, His kindness, His support, and His forgiveness for our sins. Don't wait too long—God's gifts are meant to be enjoyed for a lifetime.

Just as an afterthought, let me share this bit of wisdom with you. If Harold and I should meet you along the way and you have a special need in your life, just let us know. We keep our basket with us all the time.

THANKS, FREE UNION, PINETOWN

by The Reverend Harold Swinson

On Sunday, November 21, 2004, I walked into a sanctuary that I have entered for the past twelve years for the last time as pastor. For the first time in all of the process of leaving and beginning again in another church, I had tears on my face and also no voice. This leaving was not of our own choice but one of God leading and directing us to another field of service; of God working in the lives of three different churches to accomplish His work and ministry in the lives of His people. Do I always understand His working and will? No, but He hasn't called me to understand but to be obedient to His calling.

As I stood just inside those doors, silence was the only thing present. No one singing; no one praying; no one moving around; just silence. In that silence I could hear prayers that had been offered on behalf of those in need, whether physical or spiritual, given by those who have walked those isles all of these years. I could visualize faces of those who have long since been called home with the Lord, as they served in various positions as they came to a place dedicated to God for worship. I could see in my mind those that came to the altar and committed their life to Jesus Christ. I can still hear the cries of joy

as families gathered to encourage couples as they joined in marriage before God and community. I still see the faces of those who gathered to share their presence and comfort as those we loved so much departed us and joined God in Heaven. But these are not the only things I remember about Free Union.

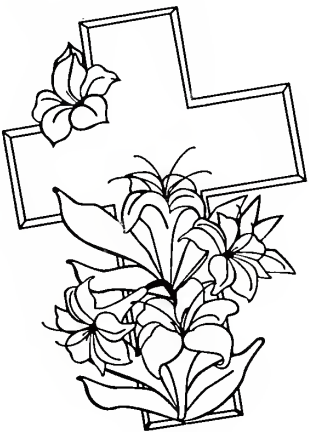
God, in His wisdom, has ways of placing people and things in places where they are needed and at the right time. Twelve years before the first day at Free Union, God knew that Elaine and I would walk into those rooms and the community and would grow from the experiences we would share in the Free Union Community. Lives that would touch ours and change them and changes that would come in the lives of others as God ministered through us to them. Families that came to know the love of God in ways that we sometimes hope would come to fruition and did before our eyes.

But there are other things to be thankful for. We have friends that will always have a special place in our hearts and we hope we will be in theirs as well. I don't know that I could choose one person above all of them because they became a family to us. When we faced trials in our own family they were always there.

When we needed prayer, you could count on them to be there. When there were needs beyond our own comprehension, they somehow always knew and were there. No problem was too small or too great to present to them knowing that they would do their best with whatever the need was. This was not just with us but with the community. When needs were present, they came together and did what Christians are suppose to do; they loved, prayed and worked to make things different.

As I sit and put my thoughts on paper, I feel inadequate to really say just how I feel about that little place in Beaufort County that was home for Elaine, Pam, and the kids for twelve years. Somehow a part of me was left there and I will never be the same from having lived and served the Lord and the community as we were allowed to do for twelve years, three weeks, and four days.

To all the people who touched our lives in those years and shared so much with us in so many ways, Elaine and I, and the kids say THANK YOU! We will always be thankful to God that He placed us there and for the experiences, love, and memories we now have in sharing a very special place in your heart, church, and community.



*Wishing You a Happy Easter
from the Management and Staff
of the
Free Will Baptist Press Foundation, Inc.*



RACHEL'S JOURNAL: "NEWS FROM PIEDRAS NEGRAS"

by Rachel Langley, Summer Missionary to Mexico



Hey!! I hope you have been able to see the Holy Spirit moving this week. I pray that you will be sensitive to His urgings and obedient to His direction!

The second team worked in Piedras Negras. The men took the roof off the church and put a new roof on as well as started the foundation for the parsonage of the Ebenezer Church. The women worked at Lily of the Valley doing Women's Bible Study in the morning and Bible School with the kids in the afternoon. This week was like no other for us because Ms. Sandra wasn't here. Mr. Harold and Ms. Sandra became grandparents for the third time 5 weeks earlier than expected. (Misty and Mary Beth are doing very well!) Talk about God's timing, they received the phone call four hours before they were to leave the hotel to go to the airport on Saturday morning. Ms. Sandra was able to make it home before Caleb (Chuck and Misty's oldest child) even realized his parents weren't there.

God definitely was at work here too because I was able to drive the van with only one little mishap—well, I guess two...I accidentally ran over a slab of concrete (but the van is really high off of the ground, so it cleared it without any problems) in the parking lot of the hotel. Also the first day, I got a little turned around on the way back to the hotel. It was a little frustrating because I recognized everything that I passed, but I couldn't find the right road to get us back to the hotel. After what seemed like forever, I got us back to the main road and found it from there. How



Taking the roof off of the Ebenezer Church.

many times in our Christian walks have we been in a spot like that? We know that the things around us look familiar and we really want to get where God wants us to be, but we are just missing something. We wonder around for a little while until we finally get back to where we started and then we follow His instructions obediently to arrive at our destination a little more tired than we should be. I'm so thankful that He doesn't give up on us, but instead just loves us and brings us back to Himself. There was a really small group of ladies on this team (again...the perfectness of God's plan!)—seven to be exact and that is counting Ms. Timmons, Raquel, Heather, and me! We worked well together, and we worked a lot because there was no time for anyone to rest. We had 12–15 women each day and 75–105 kids each afternoon!

Several of them touched my heart! The family that lives beside the church is one such example. Antonio

(the dad) used to cross illegally to Texas and work every year for 6 months of the year. About three and a half years ago he got caught and was put in jail. (Here we go again...God's perfect plan.) While he was in prison, someone shared the Gospel with him, which forever freed him from the bonds that Satan had on his life. He began to study and his life changed! When he came back home, his daughter, Ada, immediately recognized the difference in his life and she accepted Christ as well! Dora, his wife, noticed that he wasn't drinking, getting high, nor chasing women anymore, so she, too, began to wonder about this difference. Soon after that, she came to know Christ as her Savior as well. They have 4 other children who are still kind of young, but it is absolutely incredible to watch this family serve the Lord together. Even the youngest boy (he's five) came to the front everyday to say the memory verse from the day

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before. Emmanuel is 11, and he's very close to committing his life to the Lord. Please pray for this family that God will continue to use them in His service.

Raquel's graduation was this week! I can't believe it, and I'm sure that she can't either. Just so you know, even graduations start on Mexican time! (This is really my kind of place!) The other thing that amazes me is how much families work together here. Pepe wasn't even going to the graduation, and Ismael wasn't going to the supper afterwards. However, both of them still hauled the other members of the family around so that they could be where they needed to be without thinking about what they could be doing instead or being impatient because they had other things to do. I can take a lot away from their selfless acts of service to one another. That's what love really is anyway...serving others...that's the example that Christ set for us!

I also had to say bye to Heather this week! I will miss her next week in Saltillo! She is a blessing to be around, and she's got her focus where it needs to be—on serving our Father! Please pray for her as she enters her senior year of high school that God will lead and direct her to where she needs to be next year!

Well, I've shared a lot with you...I



Replacing the roof.



Raquel's graduation Thanksgiving Service.

hope you are coming to know some of my friends through these journal entries. I encourage you to serve those around you even when they

don't deserve it or when you won't get anything in return. I love you and miss you! God bless! See you soon! Rachel

FOREIGN MISSIONS ANNUAL TELETHON



Call!

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Sunday, March 20

1:30–5:30 P.M.

**With Your
Special Offering!**

SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 2005—

MARCH IS FOREIGN MISSIONS MONTH

THEME: "The Cross—The Empty Tomb—The Message"

THEME VERSE:

...I am the resurrection, and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live " (John 11:25).

GOAL: A total of \$185,000 in gifts on Telethon Sunday

DAY OF PRAYER FOR REVIVAL AND WORLD MISSIONS

MARCH 20, 2005

PRAYER GOAL 2005:

**All churches joining together in united prayer during the
Worship Hour on March 20, 2005.**

LET US PRAY!

CELEBRATION HELD IN BULGARIA

by Willem van der Plas

Proclaiming Jesus Christ in East Europe brought us on our way toward people who never heard of Him. We went to those who walked on the roads of darkness without any hope for the future. From the very beginning our focus was set on the Moslems and turned out toward the Gypsies, first in Balchik and later in Varna and Targoviste.



The school children could learn to become givers instead of receivers. They were very happy to be now Santa Clauses.



Young Ladies' Group.

Once, Tezdjan said to me: "Do you know where you can find Gypsies?" I could not answer her. She said, "You will find them either in a fight or at a wedding party." They surely love celebrations. They would have been very disappointed if they could not celebrate the birthday of Jesus Christ.

They came in five different groups to hear the Christmas stories, to sing together and to pray. A hundred and four members attended the celebrations. A few children, some young adults, and about 15 older people missed coming due to the weather conditions.

The songs could be heard on the street and sounded into my office and in the kitchen where I worked on

simple meals to help Medji and Tezdjan. Every group was allowed to choose which food we should serve them. They were really moderate and asked for simple things to eat.



Young Married Group.

The small classroom was overcrowded four times, except when the oldest ladies met. One of the married women said, "All who do not know to quote Psalm 23 have to leave so that we may have sufficient space." One of the ladies asked fearfully, "What is that, Psalm 23?" "You go out because you do not know the prayer of the Good Shepherd." Of course nobody was sent away.

Our meeting with the young married people was an extraordinarily joyful event. On Christmas Day in 1992, Tezdjan told eight of them about Jesus for the very first time. They were children of about 6 to 8 years old. Their parents allowed us to tell them Bible stories. They came

in a small group of twelve children and eight of them remained loyal to the Lord Jesus Christ. This year, these eight people brought their spouses with them. These young people have a lot of influence on the development of our membership. They have sent their parents and their grandparents. This meeting has been special to all of us and we all look up toward our Lord who has blessed the efforts to make the Savior known among people who walked in the darkness of "good luck" instead of Divine Blessings.



Willem prepared 50 hamburgers for the meals of the adults. Many of them had not tasted any meat in 3-6 months.

Though the majority is troubled by poverty we may say, "Poverty does no longer rule their lives, but has given place to hope and trust in the Lord."

When tears of happiness occur, there is genuine celebration of joy. Rejoice in the Lord always. Thank you very much for your prayers and support to the people of Bulgaria.



Part of Youth Group.

JOY IN SPITE OF DIFFICULTIES—PALAWAN, PHILIPPINES

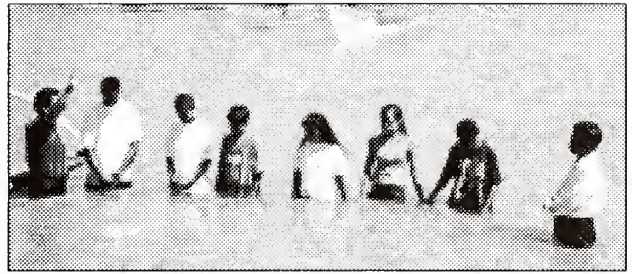
by Neri Peralta

Praise the Lord for the opportunity to visit the work at Gawid, Caroroy, and San Vicente, Palawan. I visited the work of the Lord in these places November 12–15, 2004. I experienced hardships in traveling by motorcycle on a rough and muddy road, climbing to a very high mountain. But in spite of difficulties, I was happy to see the growing work of the Lord there. It was a joy to have fellowship with our brethren and share with them the Word of God concerning their responsibilities to the church. We enjoyed visiting all the outreaches of Pastor Bernardo Borja.



Waiting for the pumpboat.

One blessed moment came after the service when we baptized six souls, witnessed by many Christians and other people of Gawid. We believe that God was glorified through all of this. All praise and glory goes to the Father.



Baptismal Service—Gawid, San Vicente



Gawid congregation singing during baptismal service.



MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

Career Fair/Job Fair • March 10, 2005 • 9:30 A.M. • College Hall

Sponsored by the Career Center, Class of 2005 and Phi Beta Lambda, the job and career fairs are great places to learn about job openings and provide students the opportunity to network with more than 60 employers. The Career Fair is open to all MOC students. During the afternoon Job Fair, employers will conduct 30-minute interviews for specific job positions. For more information, contact Linda Greenwood, (919) 658-2502, ext. 1135.

Vivian B. Harrison Lecture • March 22 • 9:30 A.M. • Rodgers Chapel

Dr. Steve Harmon, professor of theology and Christian ethics at Campbell University Divinity School, will be the guest speaker at the annual Vivian B. Harrison Lecture. He will deliver two lectures on the theme of "Tradition and the Baptist Vision." Registration for this lecture is \$10, which includes lunch. For more information or to register, contact Dr. David Hines at (919) 658-2502, ext. 1085.

Business Breakfast Briefing • Date TBA • 7:30 A.M. • Sheraton Grand, New Bern

Good food and networking. Guest speaker for this event will be Cam McRae, owner/operator and President of Tands, Inc., a franchise that now operates 32 Bojangles' Famous Chicken 'n Biscuit restaurants in eastern North Carolina. Appointed by Governor Easley to the NC Department of Transportation in 2000, Mr. McRae has been a strong advocate for eastern North Carolina, helping to promote the economic development for the NC Global Transpark and the region. Learn more about state transportation efforts in our area.

An Evening With Rodgers & Hammerstein • April 14 • 6 P.M. • Lois K. Murphy Regional Center

The Mount Olive College Concert Choir will present a dinner theater show which will include a review of musical performances and scenes from such Rodgers and Hammerstein classics as *Oklahoma!*, *The Sound of Music* and *Carousel*. Tickets are \$30. Join us for a great dinner and great entertainment. For reservations, call Krystal Faison at (919) 658-2502, ext. 1362. Seating is limited.

Spring Fling • April 22 • 8 P.M. • Mount Olive Historic Assembly Hall

The Mount Olive College Singers will present their annual Spring Fling Concert. The theme for this year's performance is American Musical Theater and will feature popular songs from hit musicals. This event is free to the public. For more information, contact Dr. Larry Oldham at (919) 658-7184 or e-mail <loldham@moc.edu>.

ENROLLMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

Mount Olive College Admissions counselors invite all high school students who want a campus tour to call (800) 653-0854 or (919) 658-2502 or send e-mail to <admissions@moc.edu> to schedule a time. Family and friends are welcome.

College Transfer Students Invited

Tim Woodard, director of admissions will be glad to work with college transfer students interested in coming to Mount Olive College in the summer or fall. Contact him via e-mail at <twoodard@moc.edu>. Students wishing to apply for admission can use the on-line form at <www.moc.edu>.

Mount Olive College locations offer convenient, one night a week accelerated programs for working adults. Find the location nearest you and enroll today to complete your degree.

Evening College at Mount Olive

Heritage Program—March 17, 2005

Contact Allison Sullivan, director of Evening College Admissions at (800) 653-0854 or (919) 658-2502 or e-mail <asullivan@moc.edu>.

Mount Olive College at New Bern

Heritage Program—March 2, 2005

Early Childhood Education—March 16, 2005

Criminal Justice Administration—March 24, 2005

Contact Vaughn Purnell, director, (800) 868-8479 or (252) 633-4464 or e-mail <vpurnell@moc.edu>.

Mount Olive College at RTP

Management and Organizational Development—March 21, 2005

Early Childhood Education—March 31, 2005

Contact Dr. Robin Spaid, director (888) 258-5188 or (919) 941-2970 or e-mail <rspaid@moc.edu>.

Mount Olive College at Wilmington

Early Childhood Education—March 17, 2005

Contact Mr. Alan Coheley, director (800) 300-7478 or (910) 256-0255 or e-mail <acoheley@moc.edu>.

The Office of Financial Aid encourages all prospective new students entering Mount Olive College to complete the Free Application for Financial Aid on-line at <www.fafsa.ed.gov>.

Many students do not realize that federal and state aid is available to help them pay for college costs. The FASFA is the first step to college affordability.

FAMILY TIES—MEMORIES OF GROWING UP AT MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE FROM THE RAPER CHILDREN

Mount Olive College was like another brother and sister to us. From the old downtown campus where we ate in the cafeteria and danced around the May pole, to the new campus where we climbed dirt piles that later became new buildings, Mount Olive College was part of our everyday lives. We learned the words to the Alma Mater along with our ABCs. We learned to play the piano on the auditorium stage of the downtown campus, and we practiced the organ in Rodgers Chapel. We knew that our parents believed education was the most important gift a parent could give a child, and we saw it offered six times—to Olivia, Kristie, Burke, Elizabeth, Stephen, and Laura. We each received an associate degree from the College, each with a hug, kiss, and firm handshake from our proud father.

The “new campus” was first introduced to us by Daddy as he drove us down a dirt path, stopping in a cornfield. He told us that the College’s new home would be established there. The Henderson Building is where Mrs. Lorelle Martin taught us loyalty and constancy to purpose, as well as science. Mr. Willis Brown helped us believe that we could learn biology, chemistry, and zoology. He attended Elizabeth’s pinning ceremony when she graduated from nursing school and shared his photography talent. We enjoyed algebra and trigonometry because Ms. Caroline Castelloe and Mr. Gene Mercer made it applicable and enjoyable. Laura is a mathematics educator. She also appreciates the encouragement from Dr. Pepper Worthington. Mr. and Mrs. Felix Ruiz patiently taught us the Spanish language. Kristie became a Spanish teacher.

We thought Dr. Michael Pelt was the greatest Biblical historian on earth, and we now know that as a fact. Mrs. Irene Patton was always encouraging. She influenced our lives through music and as a Girl Scout Leader. The Rev. Frank Harrison understood and said the right thing at just the right time. Kristie even had the honor of taking a class taught by Daddy. Ms. Eleanor Dickinson made us feel special, and she took such a delight in our accomplishments. Mr. Gary Barefoot helped us with assignments both before and during our college years. Ms. Dianne Riley had endless energy and support for all of us at any hour of the day or night. If we needed a ride home, a reminder of an important event, a trip to the doctor or hospital, an ear to listen, or just some advice, we called Mrs. Jean Ackiss. Jean has always been more than a friend; she continues as our guardian angel. Mrs. Sara Willoughby Parker offered her assistance to us any time we asked. Mr. and Mrs. George Harrison and the Rev. and Mrs. Ed Miles always hugged us and treated us like their very own

(Continued on next page)

children. Mr. Herman Jones devoted many hours of service as the campus developed. Olivia's work at Mount Olive College included an office in College Hall, a building we dreamed about for years.

Although we watched the growth of Mount Olive College's inspiring campus, Rodgers Chapel is most dear to us all. The organ resounded proudly during recitals performed by Burke, a masterful church musician and organist. In the chapel, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of Daddy's Ordination into the Free Will Baptist ministry. We went to the Chapel for weddings and held receptions on the campus lawn. It was in that special Chapel, we said good-bye to our brother Stephen (August 21, 1959–June 9, 1998) among family and friends.



1966—Raper family welcomed visitors to campus during first open house of the Henderson Building: (left to right): Kristy, Laura, Olivia, Dr. and Mrs. Raper, Elizabeth, Stephen, and Burke.

Mount Olive College, its buildings and its people, is certainly an integral part of our family. We are proud to be Trojans—alumni of Mount Olive College. We are more proud to be the children of Dr. and Mrs. William Burkette Raper. We are happy about our parents' retirement, as together they have shared in this mission. We have been blessed by God with a wonderful family and strong family ties. We know that our parents will enjoy their golden years together with our families, which will always include the College. We will remember those special people at Mount Olive College, who influenced our lives in such a positive and meaningful way. We thank God for Mount Olive College, a part of our family, and for our devoted and loving Christian parents.



Raper family in 1996 at the 50th Anniversary of Dr. Raper's ordination into the Christian Ministry: (left to right:) Elizabeth R. Hood; Laura R. Buddin; Burke Raper Jr.; Dr. and Mrs. Raper, Stephen L. Raper; Olivia R. Best; and Kristy R. Bailey.

ALUMNI OF MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE



Mrs. Bessie Woodall (far right) stands behind the bench that was given in her honor by her children, Barbara, Faye, and Hal. Until Alumni Weekend in November, 2004, Mrs. Woodall had not had the opportunity to see this surprise birthday gift. Standing with her is Vivian Hinton Hall (Mount Olive College alumna Class of '79); Faye Woodall Jones and Barbara Woodall Hinton. Barbara, student body president from the first class in 1954, was back for her 50th reunion with other students from the fall of 1954. Barbara also delivered the Alumni Weekend Memorial Service at the Alumni Cross Walk on Sunday, November 21, the birthday of her father, the late Leonard Woodall from the Mount Olive College Class of 1957. It was a memorable occasion.

COLLECTION PRESERVES COLLEGE AND CHURCH HISTORY

"Then beware lest thou forget..." (Deuteronomy 6:12).

The Free Will Baptist Historical Collection, established in the mid-1950s as a joint project of the College and the church, serves as a historical library on the history, faith, and work of Original Free Will Baptists. Today, the Collection contains the largest and most representative body of information and historical materials on Free Will Baptists to be found anywhere.

The Collection provides on-site resources for review, study, and research on individuals and families as well as the church at large. Future goals include a full-time curator, lectures, workshops, seminars, research, reproduction of appropriate items, and the writing of papers and publications related to the church and its ministries.

Among those who, during the formative years of the College, envisioned the significance of the Collection were Mr. Daniel W. Fagg, dean and professor of history; President W. Burkette Raper; Mrs. Mildred S. Councill, librarian; Dr. Michael R. Pelt, chair of the department of religion; Mrs. J. C. Moye of Snow Hill; Mrs. Cora Lee Garriss Spivey and her sister, Mrs. Anna Garriss Hill of Ayden; and George Stevenson, then a student at the College and an avid historian. Mr. Gary Barefoot, a student assistant, later returned to the College as librarian (1965–1999) and continually promoted the development of the Collection.

Due to the vital role the Collection plays in maintaining a historical record of the College and church, an enlarged facility, doubling the current space for the Collection, is included in plans for the Communications Center on campus.

To provide permanent funding for the continued development and expanded service of the Collection, seventeen endowed funds have been established by special friends of the College. Gifts and commitments to these funds through

December 31, 2004, totaled \$313,938. A goal of \$1,000,000 in endowed funds for the Collection is needed and envisioned by the year 2010.

The Legacy Endowed Fund has been established for those who wish to make gifts in memory or in honor of family members or friends.

For information on endowed gifts, contact Jeff Daughtry, director of planned giving, at (919) 658-7831 or e-mail <jdaughtry@moc.edu>. For more information on the Free Will Baptist Historical Collection, see the chapter by Gary F. Barefoot, pages 90–93, in *A Short History of Mount Olive College, Volume One*, by W. Burkette Raper, Mount Olive College Press.

HISTORICAL COLLECTION ENDOWMENTS

Anonymous

L. E. Ballard Endowed Fund

Grace L. and David V. Barbour Family Endowed Fund

Jesse B. and Essie Lee M. Caton Endowed Fund

Luna Mae Davis Endowed Fund

Joyce Hill and T. Edwin Hales Endowed Fund

Geraldine B. and Andrew J. Hill Endowed Fund

Harold F. and Blanche A. House Endowed Fund

Elsie Brame and James Baxter Hunt

Family Endowed Fund

Mildred and Manley Jenkins Family Endowed Fund

Legacy Endowed Fund

Rom W. and Annie Banks Mallard Family Endowed Fund

Rose M. and W. Burkette Raper Endowed Fund

Lethea G. and Bonner D. Sawyer Endowed Fund

Sybil S. and Robert L. Tripp Endowed Fund

William J. and Jane Tyson Tripp Family Endowed Fund

R. Ray and Mae Ellen Warren Warwick Endowed Fund

LENTEN LUNCHES AT MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

Mount Olive College and the Mount Olive Area Ministerial Association are sponsoring a series of Lenten lunches throughout February and March. These lectures will take place at 12 noon in the Hennessee Room of the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center. "The Seven Last Words of Jesus From the Cross" is the powerful theme being discussed by some of the college professors and local ministers of Mount Olive.

Dr. Sarah Clere, professor of English at Mount Olive College presented on February 16, 2005. Her talk was entitled, "Father, Forgive Them, For They Know Not What They Do."

Dr. Greg Day, campus minister at Mount Olive College explored Christ's words "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise." This event was on February 23, 2005.

"Woman, behold your son. Son, behold your mother" is being discussed by the Rev. Dr. Lily Chou, of the Smith Chapel United Methodist Church, on March 2, 2005.

The Rev. Richard Hathaway, of Salem Advent Christian Church, is scheduled for March 9, 2005. His presentation will be about the famous phrase, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

March 16, 2005, is the date for the lecture given by Evangelist Johnson Lee Simpson Jr., of Helping Hands United. His topic focuses on Jesus saying, "I thirst."

Concluding the series will be a presentation given by the Rev. Dr. Dennis Draper of the First United Methodist Church. He will speak on the last two comments made by Christ, "It is finished" and "Father, into your hands I commend my spirit." This closing lecture will be on March 23, 2005.

The public is invited to attend. The cost of the buffet lunch is \$4.50. For more information, contact Dr. Greg Day at (919) 658-2502 or e-mail <gday@moc.edu>.

GIFT SUPPORT FOR MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE STRONG AT YEAR'S END

"This quarter at Mount Olive College was remarkable. God has blessed the College and we are truly grateful. We have been supported generously by our many friends, businesses, and foundations on which all our progress rests. This incredible generosity has provided leadership, financial strength, and inspiration which will continue to propel us forward."

J. William Byrd, president

Harold H. Bate Foundation approves \$10,000 grant

Mount Olive College received a \$10,000 grant from the Harold H. Bate Foundation to create an exploratory committee of 15 to 20 business and community leaders in the New Bern area to gauge interest in and financial support for expanding the College's New Bern location. Also included will be a feasibility study and architectural consultations to discuss realistic costs of the building project.

James M. Johnston Trust grants \$20,000

Mount Olive College has received a \$20,000 scholarship grant from the James M. Johnston Trust. Since 1969, the College has received more than \$800,000 from the James M. Johnston Trust for scholarships. The money has provided more than 1,100 scholarships.

College dinners boast another stellar year

According to Jean F. Ackiss, director of Church Support, FWB church members gave \$503,758 to the College during the annual 2004 Church Dinner Program.

"We thank God and His people for responding to the call to provide support for Mount Olive College," Ackiss stated. "Even though the coastal counties are still recovering from Hurricane Isabel, gifts received were \$11,194 more than last year. We thank God for the faithful support of the Free Will Baptist Church. We have good volunteers in this program, and they show by their efforts that they believe in the College and that they want this ministry to fulfill its Christian mission," she continued.

\$20,000 grant from Altria funds workshop

Altria-Shared Solutions provided a \$20,000 grant to Mount Olive College for its second annual Agribusiness Professional Development Conference. The four-day conference held January 30–February 3 covered such topics as economics of farming, environmental aspects of farming and social enhancement of the farm community with knowledge of business skills in an ever-changing economic environment.

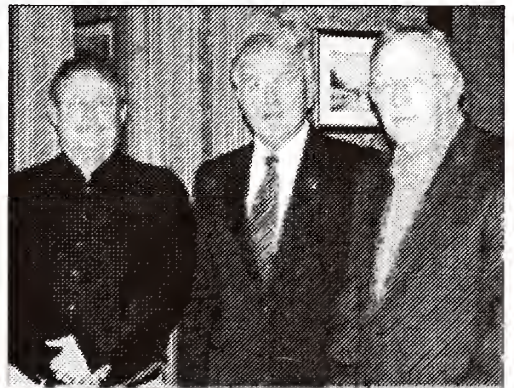
According to Dr. Don Scott, director of the College's Agribusiness Center, "We are grateful to Altria-Shared Solutions for their support of this much needed conference in Eastern North Carolina."

POYTHRESS, GLOVER PROVIDE SUPPORT

Mr. H. M. Poythress and Dr. Michael Glover have committed \$50,000 to the New Century Capital Campaign by naming a conference room in the new academic complex. The conference room will be called "Old South" in recognition of one of their joint business ventures, Old South Foods Ltd.

A Mount Olive College Board of Trustee member since 1998, H.M. Poythress founded Diversified Foods, Inc. in 1969 with his business partner, Griffin Glover, Michael Glover's father. After the death of his parents, Dr. Glover, an orthopedic surgeon in Wilson, joined Mr. Poythress in owning the development rights of any existing or future Pizza Inns in North Carolina. Their Pizza Inn development rights also include the majority of South Carolina and a portion of Virginia. So if you have dined at one of the 60 Pizza Inns in North Carolina, South Carolina, or Virginia or eaten at Griff's Steak Barn in Wilson, you have experienced a service of Diversified Foods. Poythress and Glover have company-owned businesses in 13 counties of Eastern North Carolina and Old South Foods, Inc., their food processing facility in Lucama. The College's cafeteria serves spaghetti sauce made by Old South Foods, Inc.

"We appreciate this meaningful commitment from Mr. Poythress and Dr. Glover and look forward to utilizing the Old South conference room in the new academic complex. We are pleased that we can recognize their generous support with this naming opportunity," stated Dr. J. William Byrd, president of the College.



CAMPUS VISITS

On January 15, 2005, members of Branch Chapel Church and their youth groups visited our campus. They presented a program, which included skits and games for the residents. They also presented gift baskets, with goodies for all to share. Thanks for taking the time to share with us.

On January 22, the "Big House Band" from Stoney Creek presented message in song to the Home. Wes Boyd, Youth Director, presented a message on teenage responsibility. After the service, refreshments were served in Heritage Hall. The residents and staff extend our thanks to Stoney Creek for a great evening.

On February 1, members of the Wintergreen Church (Cove City, NC), Woman's Auxiliary visited with us. They stopped by to deliver needed supplies, such as paper products, toiletries, crock pots, and steam irons they had collected for the Home. We extend our thanks to them.



Branch Chapel Church youth presented a program including skits and games.



Branch Chapel Church presented gift baskets to the residents.



Members of the Wintergreen Church Woman's Auxiliary from Cove City, NC delivered needed supplies.



Branch Chapel Church participating in legless soccer.



"Big House Band" from Stoney Creek Church presented message in song.

MAINTENANCE UPGRADES

Just like at any home, we are always repairing and replacing. The big difference being, our maintenance department has work to do for six cottages, plus a host of other housing and buildings on campus. Listed below are just some of the projects planned for next quarter.

Floor Coverings for Central Cottage (estimated cost \$5,100)
Caanan House (estimated cost \$5,000)
Paint Interior—Recreation Center (estimated cost \$1,000)
Replace Den furniture for Smith Cottage (estimated cost \$2,100)
Paint Exterior —Rodgers Cottage, State Cottage, (estimated cost \$1,500 each)
Paint Exterior —Parker House (estimated cost \$800)
Heritage Hall—Interior Folding Doors (estimated cost \$1,000)
Parking Lot and Side Streets—Spray Coating, seal, paint parking (estimated cost \$5,000)
Gravel for unpaved road—(\$500)

If you, or a group in your church, are interested in sponsoring one of these projects, please contact us. Adopting one of these projects will help us defray the costs, but it can also motivate your group by issuing a challenge for them to pull together in support of "His child care ministry."

Please keep the Children's Home in your prayers as we move forward in 2005.

UPCOMING EVENTS

We, as a denomination, are blessed with many ministries. The Free Will Baptist Children's Home is proud to be associated as one of them. There is a song entitled "Prayer is the Key to Heaven, but Faith Unlocks the Door." The Convention stepped out in faith in 1914 when they adopted the resolution to build an orphanage. Through faith, and the determination of many people, we are where we are today. Does that mean our job is complete? No, now more than ever, we must continue to minister to children and families in need, not only by meeting their physical, emotional, and educational needs, but by continuing to provide for their spiritual needs by sharing the Gospel with them. The Scripture states that "...faith without works is dead" (James 2:20). Please continue to pray for your child-care ministry, as we carry on the vision of our forefathers, by putting our faith in action. Through faith, we are helping unlock the future for many young people. Please keep this ministry in your prayers.

May is designated as Children's Home Month in Original Free Will Baptist Churches. During May, we implement our "Change for Children" Campaign.

Information will be mailed in March to announce this upcoming event. Let's start praying now that God will bless this program.

On May 21, we will celebrate 85 years of child-care at our Founder's Day Celebration. The service will begin at noon with lunch in Whitley Center. The speaker for the day will be Dr. Burkette Raper. Watch for more information, as we plan this event.

July 10 is our 59th Annual Alumni Homecoming.



CRAGMONT ASSEMBLY

2005 CRAGMONT COOK-OFF

Response to our 2004 Cook-off more than doubled the initial 2003 opportunity! Twenty churches participated and raised \$16,500. We are excited at the participation and commitment of our churches to this ministry opportunity.

Every Free Will Baptist Church knows about having a dinner or selling plates to raise money. We're very good at it. Most of our Sunday School rooms, fellowship halls, and sanctuaries are evidence of such success. Our goal is to put this success strategy to work for Cragmont.

We ask for a day—just one dinner or sale—from your church. Your menu, your prices—you know your people and your community. Commit this one dinner to Cragmont and send us the proceeds.

As the participation grows, so will the overall and continued success of the Cook-off.

Now is the time to plan your church cook-off for 2005. This program is an ongoing event. Some churches like to do their dinners in the Fall—others the Spring. Remember, it's not when you do it—it's that

you do it! We succeed through participation.

We thank those churches and organizations that participated in 2004; and we look forward to increased participation in 2005.

Join the growing number of churches and commit to having a dinner for Cragmont.

Contact Bryant Hines if you have questions or need further information.

Bryant can be reached by telephone at (252) 637-7171 or e-mail <bryanthines5@aol.com>.



SECOND ANNUAL FULCHER TIRE CRAGMONT SPRING SWING



Four Man Super Ball Tournament
Saturday, April 16, 2005
Carolina Pines Golf and Country Club

REGISTRATION FORM

Carolina Pines is located just off
US 70—12 miles east of New Bern
Cost: \$50 per Player—\$200 per Team
Format: Four Man Super Ball
Two Shotgun Starts: 8:30 A.M. and 1:15 P.M.
Limited to Twenty Teams Each Start—
Start Preferences Granted On A First Received Basis
Prizes Awarded At The End Of The Day
Light Lunch Provided
Handicap Each Player As An "A, B, C, or D"
Senior (60+) Division Available
Make Checks Payable to "Cragmont"
and return with registration form to:
Bryant Hines
203 Teachey Court
New Bern, NC 28562
Telephone: (252) 637-7171

Player 1 (Captain)_____ HNDCP_____ Age_____

Address_____

City, State, Zip_____

Telephone_____ e-mail_____

Player 2_____ HNDCP_____ Age_____

Player 3_____ HNDCP_____ Age_____

Player 4_____ HNDCP_____ Age_____

**Preferred Starting Time (circle one) 8:30 A.M. 1:15 P.M.

2005 CAMP SCHEDULE

Morning Star

April 1-3, 2005
Teresa Ball
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road
Grifton, NC 28530
(252) 524-4677

Ministerial Association of OFWB

September 12-15, 2005
Bryant Hines
203 Teachey Court
New Bern, NC 28562
(252) 633-2683

June Women's Auxiliary Conference

June 6-11, 2005
Teresa Ball
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road
Grifton, NC 28530
(252) 524-4677

Cragmont Youth Conference

June 13-18, 2005
Bryant Hines
203 Teachey Court
New Bern, NC 28562
(252) 633-2683

Christian Cadet Conference

June 20-25, 2005
Wes Boyd
794 Church of God Road
Goldsboro, NC 27534
(919) 736-9436

Youth Frontier Conference (YFA/AFC)

June 27-July 2, 2005
Frankie Baggett
5403 Weyerhaeuser Road
Ayden, NC 28513
(252) 746-7850

General Youth II Conference

July 11-16, 2005
John Robert Harris
2514 Olde Dutch Court
Kinston, NC 28504
(252) 208-1781

General Youth I Conference

July 18-23, 2005
Bryant Hines
203 Teachey Court
New Bern, NC 28562
(252) 633-2683

Young People's Bible Conference

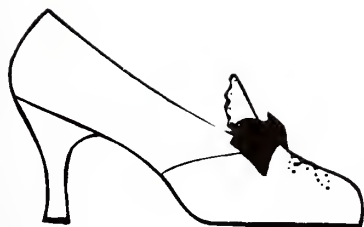
July 25-30, 2005
Rudy Owens
1515 US 70-A
Selma, NC 27576
(919) 965-2796

August Women's Auxiliary Conference

August 1-6, 2005
Teresa Ball
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road
Grifton, NC 28530
(252) 524-4677



"WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN THE GLASS SLIPPER DOESN'T FIT?"



This question and many others came into being during the weekend of January 27–30, 2005, at Cragmont Assembly. A special group of ministers' wives gathered for the first of many spiritual life retreats. The retreat is sponsored by the Sunday School Ministry. During the weekend, the book, *A Wife After God's Own Heart* by Elizabeth George was used for discussion. The weekend began with a critical look at the movie, *Cinderella*, and found many instances in which there were comparisons to a woman's life inside and outside the church. However, the ladies came to understand that when the "glass slipper" that fit so well at the beginning of a marriage begins to tighten

up, we may need to get a bigger, softer shoe or maybe an athletic shoe to perform the many duties that must be assumed during the course of a marriage—especially the minister's wife.

All the ladies were full of expectation and to their astonishment, they awoke on Saturday morning to a ground that was covered with snow. The snow fell and fell until it became obvious that Cragmont had a "captive" group for the remainder of the weekend. The fireplace was the focal point around which all the discussion groups were held. The warmth of the fire only added to the warmth felt by all who attended. A close relationship was established between the 11 ladies who braved the cold.

The ladies decided to call themselves "The Cinderella Sisters" and expressed the desire to have two retreats each year, one at Cragmont and one on the coast. We invite all ministers' wives and widows to join us in this support group and become a "Cinderella Sister." Watch the mail for further information concerning these events.

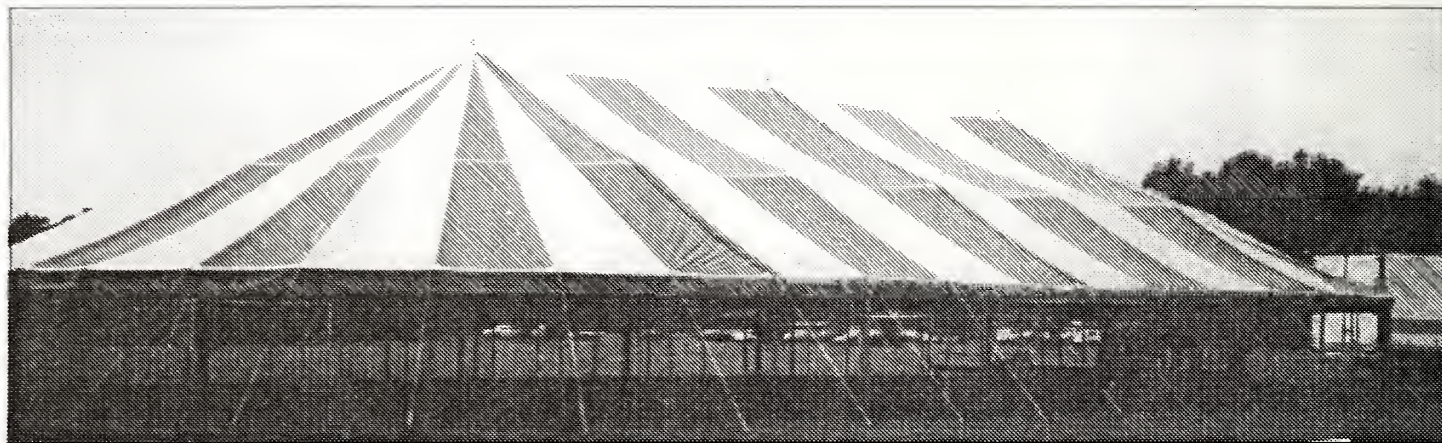


Pictured from left to right on the front row are: Mrs. Lorraine Garner, Mrs. Jeanne Brown, Mrs. Jo Alford; on the back row are: Mrs. Mary Dudley, Mrs. Jennifer Williamson, Mrs. Judy Jones, Mrs. Mickey Carroll, Mrs. Donna Tyson, Mrs. Sandy Thick, Mrs. Wanda Gordon, and Mrs. Barbara Brown.



THE TENT... "GIVEN TO MINISTERING"

by The Reverend Tim Heath



The word "ministry" brings about many different images. Webster's *New World Dictionary* defines ministry in four ways; all deal with the act of service. The first definition that Webster's dictionary gives for ministry is "the act of serving, given to ministering." One of the other definitions given is "a collective body given to the effort of service." Taking these two definitions and extending them to Home Missions and Evangelism, we can easily apply them to the work that is being done. In light of ministry as defined here, let's take a closer examination at one of the ministry arms affectionately called "the Tent."

Erecting the tent and taking it down is a lot of hard work, and although some may even want to run and hide when they hear "time to put up the tent," there is much fellowship and always a few laughs along the way. The experience is well worth the effort, and the unity that is promoted among the workers is "priceless." There is nothing like working shoulder to shoulder with fellow brothers and sisters in Christ to achieve a goal...to provide a facility for ministry to a community and church family. The labor, sweat, and fellowship are a part of the legacy of the tent ministry. The worship, outreach, and fun are at the heart of it.

Attending the fall festival at Wintergreen Church, Cove City, and witnessing how the people of the church had decorated the interior space, brought into focus the ministry of the tent. The games, the food, and the families filled the almost 6,000 square foot facility with excitement and joy. Community outreach is just one of the ways that churches can use the tent to expand their ministry.

Camp Vandemere has used the tent for their annual sing that provides a major portion of their budget. Cragmont

used the tent this summer to provide expanded shelter space for their campers and additional options for the directors. Whether it is for fundraisers, worship, retreats, or for emergency shelter, the tent offers our people a unique form of ministry.

Already, the tent is scheduled for an event in May, two events in August, and one in October. If your church or organization would be interested in using the tent for a unique form of revival or other function, now is the time to call and schedule the tent. Due to the nature of the tent, bookings are limited. You may contact Home Missions and Evangelism at (252) 746-4963 or e-mail <assistant@fwbhomemissions.org>.



Fall Festival at Wintergreen Church.

HOME MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM SEEKS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Board of Home Missions and Evangelism is seeking an Executive Director. The Personnel Committee composed of the Rev. William Mobley, Chairman, the Rev. Lewis Forsythe, and Mr. Peyton Lee will be receiving the applications. The PURPOSE, QUALIFICATIONS, and RESPONSIBILITIES for this position are as follows:

PURPOSE

The Executive Director's position shall be to maintain an office for the purpose, as stated in the By-Laws of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists Article III, Section 19, of promoting Home Missions and Evangelism and overseeing the scouting programs and the Disaster Relief Ministry.

QUALIFICATIONS

A. The Executive Director is to be an ordained minister from the duly ordained list of Original Free Will Baptist ministers.

B. This person shall:

1. Evidence personal integrity, good moral and ethical behavior, and financial responsibility in personal financial management.
2. Evidence good character and Christian commitment.
3. Evidence personality qualities that will contribute to good interpersonal relationships.
4. Evidence sound Christian conviction with the capacity of willingness for open-mindedness and honesty in all deliberations and decisions.
5. Be a person given to neatness and good taste in matters of dress and appearance.
6. Be willing to do the necessary travel for the broad scope of Home Missions and Evangelism and Disaster Relief.
7. Have had adequate training in Church Growth and Evangelism and Disaster Response.
8. Have adequate training and experience in the area of pastoral and administrative leadership.
9. Hold a personal theological position that is generally mainstream of Original Free Will Baptists.
10. Have Biblical knowledge supportive of an adequate perception and understanding of Original Free Will Baptists.
11. Have at least 10 years service as a pastor with sufficient evidence of success.
12. Have had leadership and/or administrative responsibilities in the larger work of the denomination (Union Meeting/Conference/ or Convention level).
13. Have had involvement in ecumenical endeavors and relations.
14. Have an understanding of fundraising techniques as well as being familiar with setting up endowments.
15. The Director is to be willing to locate within reasonable distance of the offices of Home Missions and Evangelism.

RESPONSIBILITIES

A. The Executive Director shall be responsible for overseeing all the Director/Pastors, all persons involved in Disaster Relief, and all persons employed by the Board of Home Missions and Evangelism.

B. This person shall be accountable to the Board of Home Missions and Evangelism and is responsible for the administration and fundraising of all aspects of this ministry within the framework of such policies that have been adopted and any that may be adopted by said Board.

C. The Executive Director is to visit all mission/churches as often as possible and make reports of said visits to the Board of Home Missions and Evangelism.

D. This person should always be seeking the opportunity to establish new mission/churches as well as developing programs of outreach ministry through evangelism.

E. The Executive Director is responsible to PLAN and PROMOTE all the work and ministry of Home Missions and Evangelism and when possible conduct conferences and training for Evangelism, Home Missions, Scouting, Church Growth, and Disaster Relief and Response.

F. The Executive Director will be responsible for reporting to all annual conferences and conventions.

Applications will be received through March 31, 2005. Any application received after this date will not be considered. All applicants are to include the information requested above along with a full resume, a recent photo, references with addresses, phone numbers, and e-mail if possible. Mail applications to the Rev. William Mobley, Chairman, 2306 West 5th Street, Washington, NC 27889. Please—no phone calls. Upon review of all applications, the Personnel Committee will contact those candidates selected for interview. We will appreciate your prayers as we proceed to fill this vacancy.



NOMINATION FORM FOR OFFICERS AND MINISTRY BOARD MEMBERS

The Convention of Original Free Will Baptists will convene on May 17-19 at Mount Olive College. We are seeking nominations for the following offices and boards:

CONVENTION OFFICERS:

Secretary (2007)
Treasurer (2007)

CONVENTION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Albemarle (2007)
Pee Dee (2007)
Western (2007)
Piedmont (2007)
Palmer (2007)

CHILDREN'S HOME

3 Board Members

FOREIGN MISSIONS

1 Board Member

MINISTERS' PROGRAM

1 Board Member

COMMISSION OF STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS

1 Commission Member

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

5 Board Members

RETIREMENT HOMES

2 Board Members

LAYMAN'S LEAGUE

4 Members

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

1 Member

CHAPLAIN'S COMMISSION

1 Member

Cragmont

2 Members

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

1 Member

CHURCH FINANCE

1 Representative

FREE WILL BAPTIST PRESS

1 Representative

SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD

3 Board Members

NOMINATING FORM

I would like to nominate _____ for the following board or commission.

Please tell us why you wish to nominate this person and his/her abilities they would bring to this office.

Signed: _____

In order to have this report ready for the convention, all nominations must be received by **March 31, 2005**.

Please mail all nominations to: Ray Wells, 6661 Rock Ridge School, Sims, NC 27880.

QUESTIONS ANSWERED RESULTING FROM THE CHANGE OF DATES FOR CONVENTION

May 17–19 is quickly approaching and with it comes the many opportunities surrounding our 2005 Convention. This month we will try to answer some of the questions that have resulted from the changing of dates.

Question #1: Our church operates on a fiscal year, July 1–June 30. What period of time should be included in our annual report?

Answer: If your last clerk's report included information through June 30, 2004, you should report from July 1, 2004–December 31, 2004. If your last clerk's report included information through December 31, 2003, you should report from January 1, 2004 to December 31, 2004. In other words, begin this report where your last report ended. Do not go beyond December 31, 2004. ***This is for the clerk's report only. Yearbook information should be based on the most current data available.*

Question #2: What about our Convention contribution? We gave our budgeted amount at the September 2004 Convention. Are we being asked to contribute again in May 2005? **Answer:** Yes. Our Convention must maintain a source of income just as the other ten ministries do. If you fail to contribute to the May 2005 Convention, the services of the headquarters office, such as the preparation and distribution of the annual Yearbook, information hotlines, e-mails, phone service, conference representations, etc., will be severely hindered. Your next annual contribution will come at the May 2006 Convention.

Question #3: How will the change of dates affect the reports given by our ministries? Will we hear the same report as in September 2004? **Answer:** The format of our Convention for this year will provide ample opportunities for you to gather **updated** information from each of the ministries. These will not be the same reports. Each director will present their ministry updates in the form of information-sharing workshops throughout the two days. You will be able to ask questions

at the end of their reports. These sessions will be held in easily accessible locations on the campus. Guides will be available to assist you in finding these sites and a shuttle service will provide transportation for those in need.

Question #4: Is this a permanent format change? **Answer:** No. However, this is a year of transition and the Executive Committee saw the need for flexibility at this year's Convention. A survey form will be provided for your comments and suggestions at the conclusion of the three days so that we may continue to make necessary improvements to our session.

Question #5: How will this change affect the business session of the Convention? **Answer:** Business sessions, worship services, and other events of the Convention will be conducted as in the past. You will hear most of the financial information and ministry recommendations during the information workshops. Such items as elections, resolutions, memorials, and the adopting of reports will be handled during regular business sessions on Wednesday and Thursday morning.

Additional information will be provided in the April issue of *The Free Will Baptist*. You may also contact Andrea Cox or Buddy Sasser at the headquarters office in Ayden (252) 746-4963 with your questions. We highly recommend that your church send at least two people to the Convention so that information can be gathered from all 12 information workshops.

Convention 2005 is coming. Clear your calendar, take a vacation, send the kids to grandma's house...do whatever is necessary, but get to the campus of Mount Olive College May 17–19 for the annual Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. We will see you there!

JOINING THE HARVEST

by The Reverend Harold Swinson, Member of the Executive Committee

As we focus on "Reaping the Harvest" how do we become a part of reaping the harvest? By joining with the multitudes that are working in God's earthly kingdom to reach the lost. As Jesus told His disciples in Luke 10:2: "...The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest." What is Jesus really saying to His disciples? We need people that have a heart for reaping the harvest...to reach the lost.

In Matthew 9:35–38 we have a marvelous disclosure of what motivated the ministry of Jesus. He came to heal, and to reach out to sinful people who deserved only the judgment of God. But such is the heart of the Savior that He reached out in love to the undeserving. He is still doing that

today, and He is inviting us to join Him in reaching our world with the Good News of the Gospel (Matthew 9:35–38).

"And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest (Matthew 9:35–38).

(Continued on next page)

In order for us to join the harvest we must see what Jesus sees and feels and do what He did.

1. WE MUST SEE WHAT JESUS SEES.

It says "but" when Jesus "saw the multitudes. He was moved with compassion." In other words, He not only saw them, but He saw their need. There are now 6.2 billion people in the world today. There are multitudes around the world who are lost in their sins. Jesus compared them to "sheep having no shepherd," "weary and scattered." He saw their lost condition. He saw them as sheep who are lost without a shepherd. Those who should have been their shepherds were largely responsible for their confusion and hopelessness. The religious leaders of their day, like the world today offer a religion that adds burdens instead of lifting them. Many of those who should be shepherds are actually keeping people out of Heaven but distorting and contradicting the Word of God. They are leading the lost to be content with themselves, telling the lost that they work their way into Heaven, by participating in some ritual. Today we are constantly trying to win God's approval by ritual, work, and acts of kindness instead of believing through faith the simplicity of the Word of God.

Consequently people are left weary, desolate, and defenseless. Jesus knew that because they were without God they were therefore without hope. Do we see people like that? And do we pity them? Do we feel compassion for them? That is our need, to feel compassion because of their need. Jesus saw the multitude and was moved with compassion for them. May we do likewise. One of my most favorite New Testament word pictures is the story of the prodigal son (Luke 15) which shows the compassionate heart of God. The prodigal son was walking home with his head bowed low with shame. His father sees his son, who has spent all his money, ran with the wrong crowd, and miserably failed his family. The loving father looks past the sin and despair and sees the son he loves and rushes down the road to put his arms around him.

On another occasion reported in John 4:35, after having a conversation with the Samaritan woman at the well, Jesus spoke to His disciples. "Do you not say, 'There are still four months and then comes the harvest?' Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!" (NKJV). It has the sound of a rebuke. Had the disciples regarded Samaria as a most unlikely field? Had they failed to see the harvest all around them? Jesus did not see them as always being in that situation but He saw them being transformed into a different sphere. He saw the lost being saved. He saw sinners becoming saints. He saw the guilty being set free. He saw the unforgiven being forgiven. He saw those deserving of Hell getting grace. Instead of moaning and groaning about the bad state of affairs, He magnified the expectancy and hopefulness that is anticipated in the harvest.

Do we see those around us as potential saints? We see so much getting worse and worse, that we never see the potential in the world. But where there is a lost soul and where grace still reigns supreme, there is hope and there is a

potential saint. No matter how "good" or how "bad" they are, there is potential.

He cautions His disciples to lift up their eyes from their own personal limitations. What are the limitations that keep you from being a part of reaching the world for Christ? Is it age? It is amazing to me that we are always either too young or too old to do something for God. Is it health? Jesus wants us to lift our eyes away from those things that would limit us and look at how enormous the harvest is.

He reminds the disciples that there is urgency to the task. "Don't say that there is plenty of time." People are dying every day, and going to a Christless eternity. The challenge to the church today is that untold millions are still untold. We must not only see what Jesus sees but,

2. WE MUST FEEL WHAT JESUS FEELS.

"He was moved with compassion for them." The word "compassion," means to feel the pain of another person in your own heart. Jesus was sick at heart, burdened, and broken over His lost city and nation. In Luke 19:41 as Jesus looked over Jerusalem He was moved by their spiritual condition: "Now as He drew near, He saw the city and wept over it" (NKJV). As you look over your community and the surrounding area your heart should be moved, by the condition of those lost in traditional religion, spiritual darkness of all kinds. We need brokenhearted people who will weep over their lost neighbors, friends, and family. How desperately we need people who will weep over their cities and communities. We must not only feel what Jesus feels but,

3. WE MUST DO WHAT JESUS DID.

We are told in Matthew 9:36, "He was moved with compassion for them,..." (NKJV). That compassion led to action. First, He asked them to pray for laborers: "Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest'" (Matthew 9:37 NKJV). The first thing to do is pray. Why must we pray? Because this is the Lord's work. What is impossible with men is possible with God. If there is going to be a great reaping of the harvest it will be because of God. The harvest we want is impossible with us. The new birth is a miracle. It is based on God's power.

Next, He asked them to go as laborers. It is through prayer we will gain the compassion we need to see the harvest as they truly are and it is through prayer that we will see that there is great potential in the harvest and it is through prayer that we will ask for the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers.

In the days of Christ's ministry on Earth the laborers were "few" and they still are today. How can we ask God to send forth someone else without first saying, "Lord, send me"? The ones who He had commanded to pray for laborers became workers themselves. It is impossible to pray regularly for the salvation of a loved one, a neighbor, a friend or a co-worker and not be moved to do something. We cannot help but be moved to be the "someone" God would use ourselves.

Beginning in Matthew 10:3 Jesus sent them out. They went from house to house, sharing the Good News and winning

(Continued on page 34)

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

Eastern District

Woman's Auxiliary Convention
Westside Church
Kinston, North Carolina
March 19, 2005

Theme: "Steadfast Service"

Scripture: "...Be ye steadfast, unmoveable,...know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 15:58).

Registration: 9:30 A.M.
Convention begins at 10 A.M.
Speaker: Linda Herring

~ ~ ~

Cape Fear District

Woman's Auxiliary Convention
Covenant Church
Hope Mills, NC
Saturday, April 2, 2005

Theme: "God Really Loves People"

Scripture: "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost" (Titus 3:5).

Registration: 9 A.M.
Convention begins at 9:30 A.M.
Message: The Rev. and Mrs. Willem van der Plas
Missionaries to Bulgaria

Fall meeting will be at Haymount Church, Fayetteville, NC, on Saturday, October 1, 2005. Remember to send in your nominees for Life Membership and Dola Dudley Awards for 2005 to President Jane Parker as soon as possible.

~ ~ ~

Central District

Woman's Auxiliary Convention
Saratoga Church, Saratoga, NC
Saturday, March 26, 2005

Registration: 9 A.M.

Convention Begins at 9:30 A.M.

Officers for the Fall 2005 through the Spring 2007 term will be elected and installed at the Convention."

Western District

Woman's Auxiliary Convention
Marsh Swamp Church
Sims, North Carolina
April 6, 2005

Theme: "On the Job For God"

Scripture: "And say to Archippus, Take heed to the ministry which thou hast received in the Lord, that thou fulfil it" (Colossians 4:17).

Registration: 9 A.M.
Convention begins at 9:30 A.M.
Speaker: Willem van der Plas

~ ~ ~

Now is the time for you to collect your per capita dues, if you have not already done so. These dues should be collected during the first months of the year in time to be sent to your District Treasurer, before, or in time for, your District Convention. The dues are 40 cents per member per year.

Send these dues to your District Treasurer; she will keep 20 cents and send 20 cents to your State Treasurer. It is necessary that you cooperate in this as these dues provide a part of the funds for the operational expenses of your Convention. Thank you for your past support. We know that we can continue to count on you.

Yours in Christ,
Your State Treasurer
Nadine Crocker

~ ~ ~

2005 North Carolina

Woman's Auxiliary Convention
Beaverdam Church, Chadbourn, NC
Thursday, May 12, 2005
Registration: 9 A.M.

Registration fee of \$25 should be sent in advance by April 25 to:
Mrs. Nadine Crocker
568 House Road
Kenly, NC 27542

The Convention needs your registration fee even if you cannot attend. Each auxiliary should represent with one delegate for every 25 members or fraction thereof.

REGISTRATION FORM
MORNING STAR WOMAN'S CONFERENCE
April 1-3, 2005 • Speakers: Willem and Lydia van der Plas

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Church _____

Emergency Contact/Person and Phone Number _____

If, due to health reasons, you require downstairs accommodations, please check here _____
You do not have to be an Auxiliary member or even a church member to attend the conference.

Mail this registration form along with a \$20 deposit to: Teresa M. Ball, 6144 Weyerhaeuser Road, Grifton, NC 28530.
A balance of \$45 will be due upon arrival at Cragmont. Make checks payable to: Cragmont Woman's Conference.

REGISTRATION FORM
DAYSPRING CONFERENCE

June 6-11, 2005 • Speaker: Janet McKinney

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Church _____

Emergency Contact/Person and Phone Number _____

If, due to health reasons, you require downstairs accommodations, please check here _____
You do not have to be an Auxiliary member or even a church member to attend the conference.

The Day Spring Conference wishes to encourage participation of couples and of individual gentlemen, as well as our ladies.
Private accommodations for couples are available.

Day Spring Conference is being planned to "provide your own transportation" with no afternoon trips scheduled.
Afternoons will be free for your relaxation, travel, shopping, and enjoyment.
If you can't come for the whole week, no problem! Plan a partial week. Daily rates are \$20 per day.

Mail this registration form along with a \$20 deposit to: Teresa M. Ball, 6144 Weyerhaeuser Road, Grifton, NC 28530.
A balance of \$95 will be due upon arrival at Cragmont. Make checks payable to: Cragmont Woman's Conference.

REGISTRATION FORM
AUGUST WOMAN'S CONFERENCE

August 1-6, 2005 • Speaker: Kitty Barnes

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Church _____

Emergency Contact/Person and Phone Number _____

If, due to health reasons, you require downstairs accommodations, please check here _____ If you do not plan to ride the bus, please check here _____
You do not have to be an Auxiliary member or even a church member to attend the conference.

Mail this registration form along with a \$20 deposit to: Teresa M. Ball, 6144 Weyerhaeuser Road, Grifton, NC 28530.
A balance of \$145 will be due upon arrival at Cragmont. Make checks payable to: Cragmont Woman's Conference.

An afternoon trip to the outdoor drama "Unto These Hills" is planned with an approximate total cost of \$70.
Please check here _____ if you plan to attend "Unto These Hills" and include a \$30 non-refundable deposit for your trip reservation.

There will be two afternoon trips into Asheville at \$10 each. (No deposit required).

LAYMAN'S LEAGUE

On December 6, 2004, the Central Conference Layman's League met at Kings Cross Roads Church near Farmville, NC. Special music and the evening devotion were provided by members of the host church's layman's league.

Mr. Eason Barnhill, Central Conference President, presided over the business meeting. The Rev. C. H. Overman addressed the group about the new program book entitled *Moses: The Man and the Mission*. Mr. Roy Wetherington spoke to the group about the Disaster Relief Program.

We thank Kings Cross Roads for hosting this meeting and providing the wonderful food and fellowship for the evening.



Some of the men who attended the Central Conference Layman's League Meeting at Kings Cross Roads Church on December 6, 2004.



Members of Free Union Church's Layman's League

**Be sure to check out
Upcoming Events
for Layman's League
on "The Monthly Planner"
on page 2.**

**Convention of
Original Free Will Baptists Leagues
Hickory Chapel Church, Ahoskie, NC
March 19, 2005**

**Registration: 9:30 A.M.
Convention begins at 10 A.M.**

**Join us as we learn
"All About You, Lord,"
with Marci Rollins, our speaker,
and through our
Sword Drill Competition.**

ATTENTION MINISTERS

Due to a schedule conflict, the Ministerial Association has rescheduled the Mid-Year Spiritual Life Banquet. The new date is April 1, 2005. We will meet at Stoney Creek Church, Goldsboro, NC at 6:30 P.M.

We look forward to this special evening of good fellowship, a great meal and an inspiring program by Dr. David Hines.

All ministers and their spouses are cordially invited to attend. If there are ministers and widows in your church, please advise them of the banquet and invite them to attend as guests of the Ministerial Association.

We look forward to seeing you on Friday, April 1, 2005.

**Sincerely,
Clifford Ball, Secretary**

CAMP VANDEMERE

PEACE LIKE A RIVER

"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:7). Looking out over the Bay River while visiting Camp Vandemere can give one the peace of God that goes beyond comprehension. The hymn says, "I've got peace like a river in my soul." This should be each one's desire to further the work of God's Kingdom here on Earth by reaching as many souls as possible through our camp ministry at Camp Vandemere.

NEW AMENITY AT THE CAMP

As stated in last month's article, the camp will start providing linens for all dorm bunks during weekend retreats and camping season, along with stays in the four family lodges. This will include: sheets, pillowcases, towels, and washcloths. Bedspreads and pillows will be provided, also. Hopefully, this will make each person's stay more enjoyable at the camp.

NEW CAMP PRICE LIST

Dorms \$12 per night per person
Lodge \$45 per lodge per night (sleeps up to 6 people)
Week of Summer Camp \$85 (does not include director activity fee, if applicable)

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

At the Board of Director's first meeting of 2005, a new slate of Executive Officers were elected for the current year:

Chairperson: Victor Jones, (910) 298-3061

Vice-chairperson: Audrey (Stumpy) Quinn, (252) 638-6406

Secretary: Randy Blalock, (252) 753-5673

Treasurer: Damon Kennedy, (919) 658-3253

Any concerns or information needed can be directed to the above members of the executive board, as well as the camp manager.

2005 CAMP SCHEDULE

April 8-9	Mt. Zion Women's Conference
May 21	Spring Open House Gospel Sing
June 3-4	State Layman's League Retreat
June 5-10	Summer Camp, Directors: The Rev. Tim and Gail Heath, (252) 638-3808 and Wesley Taylor (252) 745-3171
June 10-11	Watson Grove Church Retreat
June 12-17	Tarboro First Summer Camp
June 20-23	Women's Week of Camp, Director: Audrey Quinn, (252) 638-6406
June 24-26	Camp Reserved
June 26-July 1	Summer Camp, Directors: Curtis and Cristy Ramsey, (910) 324-1507
July 1-3	Juniper Chapel Church Retreat
July 5-8	Open
July 10-15	Summer Camp, Director: Eva Mae Clark, (252) 637-5346
July 16	Camp Reserved
July 18-22	Summer Camp, Director: Berry Hodowanic, (252) 249-0133
July 25-29	Summer Camp, Directors: Justin Mosley and Wesley Taylor, (252) 745-3171
Aug. 1-5	Summer Camp, Director: John Thompson, (252) 633-0025
Aug. 5-7	Peace Church Retreat
Aug. 8-12	Little Rock Church, the Rev. John Hill, (252) 239-1958
Aug. 12-13	White Oak Grove Church Retreat
Aug. 19-20	Singin' By The River
Aug. 26-27	Piney Grove Church Retreat
Sept. 9-10	Boy Scout Weekend

If any group or church would like more information concerning the camp, please contact the Camp Manager, Wesley Taylor. He can be reached at the camp by telephone (252) 745-3171, cell phone (252) 514-3222 or pager (252) 634-1287. A presentation and slide program are available upon request.

Make

Your Reservation Today!

Experience

"Peace Like a River."

TRIBUTE TO FOUR CLEFS

by Carolyn Jernigan, Shady Grove Church, Dunn, NC



(Left to right): Jean Wise, David Earl Wise, Peyton Lee

On January 22, 2005, Baptist Chapel Church of Autryville was the place to be. The Four Clefs, a singing group from Shady Grove Church in Dunn, were honored for singing for the Lord for fifty years. Approximately 525 people were present. The program was directed by Mr. Craig Page, music director for Baptist Chapel, and many others who assisted him. The families of David Earl and Jean Wise, Peyton Lee, Earl Warren, Connie Culbreth, Sherwood Avery and Leon Avery were seated on the first three pews of Baptist Chapel. The service was opened with the Joy Land Chorus of Baptist Chapel singing four selections. Wayne Weeks was master of ceremonies. The King's Way Quartet, The Southern Belles, and The Marksmen sang four selections each. Mr. Kerry Godwin sang and played his guitar for the audience.

Following a short break, a video showing pictures of members of the original quartet were shown as narration was read by Wayne Weeks. The Four Clefs then sang four songs with members that had once been a part of the group. The Four Clefs really began as a trio with David Earl, Wilma Jean Wise, and Herman Daniels. They sang for a homecoming at Buies Creek Church. A young quartet sang that same day. There were two boys and two girls in it. The two young boys were contacted by David Earl and Jean to see if they were interested in forming a quartet. Sherwood Avery and Leon Avery joined the quartet. Also, Earl Warren was contacted and he consented to join this group. The four men were accompanied by Wilma Jean Wise at the piano. They had considered many names for the quartet, but Wilma Jean thought of the name "Four Clefs" and that is how they began.

Organized in late 1955, the original members were Earl Warren (lead), David Earl Wise (first tenor), Sherwood

Avery (baritone), Leon Avery (bass), and Wilma Jean Wise (pianist). Sherwood left the group in October 1958, and both Leon and Earl were taken from the group by death. David Earl and Wilma Jean are the only original members still with the group today. The other current member, Peyton Lee, has been singing with the group since 1960.

Those who have sung with the group at various times include Peyton Lee, Oscar Daniels, Keith Godwin, Connie Culbreth, Gary Warwick, Carol Daughtry and her daughter (Karen), Bobby Raynor, and Dwight Williams. Many times throughout the years the "quartet" has been a "trio"—just as they are today.

In their early years, the quartet sang in contests and sang live in a weekly TV program in Greenville which ran for six weeks. They won the coveted Consolation Cup at the Benson Sing. The Four Clefs stopped competing in contests because they felt their "God-given talents" should not be used that way. For several years the Four Clefs had a daily program at WPTF in Raleigh, NC.

The Four Clefs continue to sing at funerals, reunions, civic and business meetings, senior citizen gatherings, revivals, Second Saturday Night Sings (organized by group member Wayne Roseberry), and their own church—Shady Grove Church. The Four Clefs have traveled thousands of miles to sing the gospel—never charging the churches or civic groups. Free will offerings were accepted but never requested. All members had jobs and thought the very least they could do for the Lord was to freely carry His message to everyone who would listen.

"The Lord gave us our talents, in turn we freely shared it with others. Christian music is very soothing and convicting. There have been many people saved by listening and responding to the Holy Spirit through good gospel music inspired by God's great writers. In our fifty years of singing in a gospel quartet, we have seen many tears from people who were under conviction. Some of these people never darkened the doors of the church but their hearts were touched while listening to God's Word through gospel music. Yes, I know that there have been many lives touched and hearts saved while listening to good gospel music. I love to hear God's Word preached, but good gospel music touches me when nothing else will," said Mrs. Wilma Jean Wise, pianist for the Four Clefs.

The Four Clefs sang for the audience with each of their former members joining them. Then they sang some of their favorites and songs requested by the audience.

This group has served their Lord well and great will be their reward in Heaven one day! We say "Thank You" from the bottom of our hearts to each of you.



Peter is portrayed by David Dawson.



Mary Magdalene is portrayed by Amanda Kennedy.



Nicodemus is portrayed by Freddie Herring.

"THEY CALLED HIS NAME JESUS"

White Oak Grove Church , 5744 Kennedy Home Road, La Grange, North Carolina

Saturday, March 19 –Sunday, March 20, 6 P.M.

Doors will open at 5:30 P.M. nightly. • Nursery will be provided • Free Admission.

The drama is a story of the life of Jesus. You will meet and hear the testimonies of John the Baptist, the Samaritan woman, Mary, Martha, Lazarus, Nicodemus, Pilate, Judas, Barabbas, Simon, Mary (His Mother), John (the beloved disciple), the centurion, Mary Magdalene, Peter, and Thomas. Even Satan makes an appearance.

The Lord works in mysterious ways. He has taken this drama and opened up to our church a way to share the gospel of Christ to our friends, family, community, and other churches. Lives have been changed and people have received Christ. We want to give God all the glory and honor. He has taken ordinary people and done an extraordinary work in their lives. We just want to praise and thank Him. Come and share with us the greatest story ever told. You will receive a great blessing and your spirit will be prepared to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. For additional information, contact Linda Herring at (252) 566-9704.



Judas is portrayed by Ronnie Bartlett.



Satan is portrayed by Randy Whitman.



The Last Supper

**MARK YOUR
CALENDARS NOW
FOR THIS INCREDIBLE
EASTER DRAMA**

POWHATAN ACTIVITIES

January 8 was the first Cape Fear District Youth Rally for 2005. Powhatan's bus took a group to St. Mary's Grove in Benson and we brought back the Youth attendance banner. The program featured Elvis, Garth Brooks, and James Brown characters as the three wise men in a unique presentation of the traditional Christmas story. It was an entertaining program with the message that the best gift we can give Jesus is ourselves as His servants. We were happy to see our Jane Parker in attendance,

our district president for the Woman's Auxiliary. The Youth Convention Executive Committee met on January 8 at Mount Olive College. Plans were finalized for the May meeting. The theme is "Christian Olympics" and there will be lots of fun activities going on including a Kid Zone for the Cherubs. Youth groups should plan to attend workshops on Saturday and name tags will be given out at registration for the first time. These must be worn for identification during the weekend for security reasons. The dorms were filled beyond capacity at the 2004 convention, so we are hoping for the same attendance this year. Be watching for the registration packets from your youth directors.



Some of the young people that rode the Powhatan float in the Christmas parade for 2004. The Powhatan bus preceded the float handing out invitations and candy to the crowd.

Please join us
for a 100th
birthday party
honoring
Miss Alice Webster
Saturday,
March 12, 2005
2-4 P.M.
Free Union Church
Fellowship Hall
Pinetown, NC
given by
Free Union Church

WOMEN'S RETREAT BECOMING A VESSEL FOR HONOR

APRIL 16, 2005
9 A.M.—3 P.M.

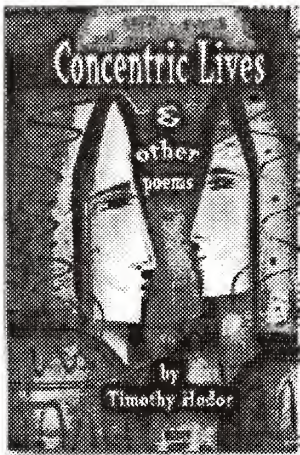
TARBORO FIRST CHURCH
3150 Western Boulevard • Tarboro, NC 27886

Jane Wolfe, Guest Speaker • Music by "Thankful Heart"

Come and join us for our Women's Retreat. Please call Linda Rose at (252) 823-1195 or Brenda Pittman at (252) 823-4611 to pre-register. (We need to know how many will be attending for food preparation. Lunch will be provided.) No registration fees. Come and worship with us, be uplifted, encouraged, and become a vessel for honor for the King.

MOC PRESS PUBLISHES NEW POETRY BOOK

Timothy Hodor. *Concentric Lives and Other Poems*. Mount Olive: Mount Olive College Press, 2004.



The Mount Olive College Press Apollo Series is the series which highlights new poetry, making the written word a source of healing, memory, music, and joy. The Apollo Series reflects the pilgrimage of the masculine soul in search of wholeness, warmth, and expression. The Apollo Series serves to promote new voices and to remind readers of the value of the masculine soul in poetry: a value which may bring meaning to human existence.

Timothy Hodor's new poetry book, *Concentric Lives and Other Poems*, offers readers poems which focus on three areas: nature, memories, and places. The title poem of this new book published by the Mount Olive College Press falls under the category of nature. Hodor describes the earth as "a round greenhouse/In a universe of glass." The narrator cries out "to be mortal again," "to be a rose" and to sacrifice the self "to a season."

In his poem "Morning," Hodor describes birds that "toss/And turn under/Linens of air." Hodor uses his images to create surprise. He describes time moving "like sunlight/Across the wrinkles of stone" ("Sounds Of The Pumping Soul"). His mind "becomes a pall-bearer" while his shoulders become "an urn of ashes" ("The Remains of Fire"). Then there

is the season spring which "replaces/The letters/The winter omitted" ("Words Of A Season").

People appear in Hodor's poetry. He describes a beggar who admitted, "I make a hole in everything I own, that way,/Nothing can be too full of hope or money" ("The Bottom of Holes"). Hodor describes a caretaker who abandoned "her cigarette" and now must be elsewhere "Inhaling loneliness" ("The Caretaker's Husband"). He describes his old teacher Buzz who died and "left his jazz guitars/In the basement to die too" ("The Remains of Fire").

Allen Ginsberg has noted that Timothy Hodor's poetry contains interesting switches while Joseph Somoza spots starkness in Hodor's poetry. Hodor is from East Chicago, educated at Rutgers University, and now resides in Vienna, Austria. His first full-length collection of poetry, *The Crowd of Time*, was published by Cedar Hill in 2002.

BAPTISM SERVICE



Pictured following a baptism service on January 23, at Smyrna Church (Cape Fear Conference) are the Rev. John Massengill who presided, along with new converts Margie Jackson, her daughter, Darlene Pennywheel, Marty Young, and licensed minister Richard Whitman, who is serving Smyrna and assisted with the service.

JOINING THE HARVEST

(Continued from page 26)

people to Jesus. And that is what Jesus still expects us to do. Reaping a harvest among sinners is hard work. It will cost some effort and some time. It is not easy work. You have to roll up your sleeves, you have to sweat a little, and you have to get dirty. And few are willing to do that.

There are some important things that we should remember about harvest time. Harvest time is a time of great opportunity, when workers are in great demand. Harvest time is a time of tremendous exertion. The crops are not brought in without a great deal of work. Harvest time is a time of great intensity and urgency. When it is time to harvest, everything else is secondary. Harvest time is a time of tremendous joy. We are told in Psalm 126:6, "He who continually goes forth weeping, Bearing seed for sowing, Shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, Bringing his sheaves with him" (NKJV).

To Join the Harvest we must:

See what Jesus sees!

Feel what Jesus feels!

Do what Jesus did!

DR. EUGENE SUMNER APPOINTED TO MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE PRESS PUBLICATIONS BOARD

by Dr. Pepper Worthington

Dr. Eugene Sumner joined the Mount Olive College Board of Trustees in 1980. Recently his term on the Board has been extended another six years, from 2004 to 2010. By virtue of being Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee on the Board, he is automatically appointed to the Mount Olive College Press Publications Board.

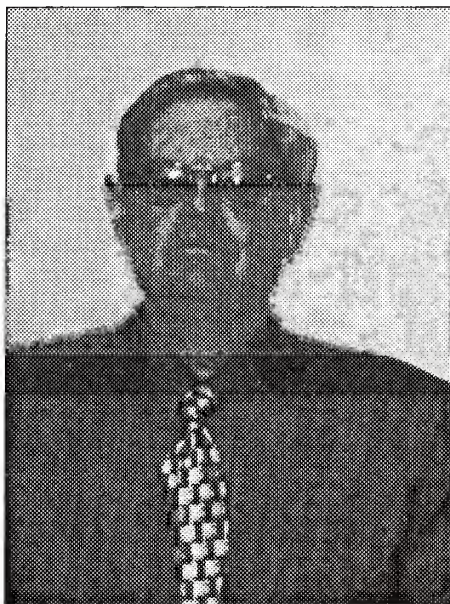
Of the Mount Olive College Press, Dr. Sumner declared, "I see the Mount Olive College Press as a service of the College and as an effort of the College to extend its service to the people of the region. I see the Mount Olive College Press as two-pronged. It helps people publish and it serves people who read."

Of the Mount Olive College Press' relationship to its printer, the Free Will Baptist Press in Ayden, Dr. Sumner noted, "The Mount Olive College Press is an opportunity for the College and the Press in Ayden to work together to collaborate as two ministries of the Free Will Baptists. They collaborate rather than act separately," he clarified.

Dr. Sumner graduated from Mount Olive College in 1962, from Atlantic Christian College in 1964, from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1968, from UNC-Chapel Hill with a master in social work in 1973, and from the University of Utah with a doctorate in social work in 1980.

His Free Will Baptist roots have carried him to the pulpit. "I entered the ministry while a student at Mount Olive," he reported. "I was ordained in 1963 and served Dublin Grove Church in Aurora. I was later the pastor at Little Creek Church in Ayden."

His pull into teaching came in 1973 when Meredith College was looking for a faculty member in social work. "I was hired at Meredith in 1973 right after I finished my MSW. After four



Dr. Eugene Sumner

years the dean said I had to get a doctorate, so I went to Utah. The focus of my graduate work was to prepare social work educators."

Dr. Sumner recently retired after 25 years on the Meredith faculty, but he intends to continue to serve on the Mount Olive College Board of Trustees. He also intends to remain active in volunteer social work.

"I've been freed up to volunteer to help the Urban Ministry of Wake County," he noted. "I help with their food program. Food is collected from supermarkets. There is a Food Bank

of North Carolina and an Interfaith Food Shuttle. Agreements are made with stores and people who need food are helped."

Though retired, Dr. Sumner is not out hitting golf balls. In answer to why he does volunteer work, he said, "I guess it's just my make-up. I get more satisfaction doing that than chasing any golf ball. You know, studies have shown that people may be genetically developed to be altruistic. Genes are different and there is evidence that even altruism may have a genetic basis."

Dr. Sumner has had a close association with Mount Olive College. "I came from Duplin County," he says proudly. "I was the first one in my family to go to college. I don't know where I'd be today if I had not gone to Mount Olive College. I remember hearing Dr. Raper talk about Mount Olive at my childhood church, Sandy Plain Free Will Baptist. Dr. Raper put me in touch with the College. And the College has evolved dramatically from its beginning. Now it is a four-year institution with five campus sites and the Mount Olive College Press. Who would have imagined this even back in 1980?"



Mount Olive College Press Publications Board: Left to right: Dr. Ellen Jordan, Dr. Eugene Sumner, Dr. J. William Byrd.

YOUTH MATERIALS

The following materials have been previewed and are available to use for the youth groups in our denomination.

Making a Difference Leading Students in Life-Changing Service

Kid's Travel Guide to the 10 Commandments by Carol Mader
(4-6 graders) 13 lessons on right and wrong

Bible Ventures Centers—Paul—Shackled and Shipwrecked
(other titles are available, same format)

Bible Skills, Drills, and Thrills Activity Book Green Cycle (1-3 grades)

Bible Skills, Drills and Thrills Activity Book (4-6 grades)

Bible Skills, Drills, and Thrills Verse Cards Green Cycle

Josh McDowell workbooks for groups for Jr. and Sr. High:
Setting You Free to Make Right Choices

Josh McDowell workbook For Groups (Grades 1-3):
Truth Works: Helping Children Make Right choices. Leaders Guide

Josh McDowell *Belief Matters* workbook

Notebook Program. In His Hands-TeamKid ages 3 yrs. to K.
Adaptable to middle and older youth

Notebook Program. TeamKid-Kids in Discipleship Day-By-Day

Tug of War Leaders Guide 52 Lessons

Running the Race. Leader's Guide for 52 Lessons.

Beth Moore, *Jesus, The One and Only* Kit for Young, Middle, Teens

Lifetrack for younger youth (4-6 grades) available titles:
VIP=Very Important Relationships, Wise Up, Walking in Faith, The Compassion Key, Lessons From the Little Know, Lessons From the Storms

Vital Truths (Grades 6-12) available titles:
False Teachings, How Can I Be Ready for the Future?, How Can I Stay Close to God? How Can I Make a Difference?, What Difference Does It Make If The Boss Is Not Looking?, How Can I Share God Without Looking Stupid?, Why Do I Need Other People?

To place your order or for more information contact:

**Free Will Baptist Press
3928 Lee Street
Ayden, North Carolina 28513
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"THE RESURRECTION"

by Sherry Matthews

On the heels of a successful Christmas drama and fueled by the response to last year's first-ever Easter production, Snow Hill Church will present encore performances of "The Resurrection" on Friday, March 25, and Saturday, March 26 at 7 P.M.

For the second year, the church's adult choir and dozens of members of the church family will don costumes to bring to life some of the most memorable and captivating scenes from the Easter season.

The drama, entitled "The Resurrection," will highlight scenes from the triumphal entry to the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ and will include solos, duets, and full choir performances of music by Robert Sterling.

"The Resurrection," will feature a cast of 75 people, including Snow Hill's adult choir, who will again be dressed in colorful period costumes.

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"WHAT EASTER SHOULD MEAN TO HUMANITY"

by Elder E. T. Phillips

This article is reprinted from The Free Will Baptist, Wednesday, April 1, 1936 edition.

It would take a large volume to give the history of what is known as Easter Sunday. We would refer our readers to an Encyclopedia or Unabridged Dictionary for such information. From a natural point of view, coming in early spring, this day is suggestive of a newness of life. It is a time when spring is in this country and in all regions included in the North Temperate Zone are waking into life. Trees, plants and even animals that have been sleeping, so to speak, through the long cold and dreary months of fall and winter. How emblematic this is of the resurrection from the dead of those who have lived according to the will of Him who cares for the life of man whom he has created and placed as ruler over all created beings and materials that exist in the world.

Above all it is a day set apart by the church to celebrate the resurrection of He who died and came forth from the tomb to conqueror of death, hell and the grave. The gloomiest day of the world's history was when Jesus, the only begotten Son of the living God lay in Joseph's tomb. As daylight follows night so the darkest night of gloom was followed by Christ bursting the bands of death and rising the world's greatest of all conquerors in all ages.

To whom was this good news first imparted? Was it to some great king? Was it to some of the leading apostles that had been with Him during His earthly life? No, it was to some women who loved Him and had often ministered to Him. Before they reached the tomb, they questioned among themselves "Who shall roll us away the stone from the door of the sepulchre?" Above all things these good women must again see him whom they had loved and served with all their devoutness of their souls. Where would we as a church be today without the loving service of the good women who would see Jesus! Angels [assisted the] Lord in every needed emergency. God had placed these angels in the tomb, to give these good women the wonderful message of the ages: "He is not here; he is risen; behold the place

where they laid him." The angel further said to the women: "Go your way, tell his disciples and Peter, that he goeth before you into Galilee there shall ye see him." Why Peter specially mentioned? Like many of us Peter had acted very unwisely, for he had denied his Lord; yet the Lord loved Peter because he had repented and was very sorry that he had grieved the heart of his Master. God loves his children even when they disobey him, if they come penitently before him and repent.



There is no event in the Bible more clearly set forth than the resurrection of our Lord that we are called upon to celebrate on Easter. The Apostle Paul speaks of it as being witnessed by many infallible proofs. Paul mentions many of his appearances, and he says, "Last of all he was seen of me, as of one born out of due [season]." He would never forget his experience of meeting with the Lord on Damascus road; and what a wonderful change it put into the life of this great apostle.

What does Easter mean to the average person in this country? To many it means a new hat or dress or some gaudy apparel with which to make a great show, a vacation or a jolly time with friends and relatives. I think perhaps we may be rather severe on people for wanting to dress well and make a good appearance. We should not worship our gay plumage age, and strut about like the peafowl when he spreads his gaudy wings; but does not nature deck the world with magnificent trees, flowers and robe many of our hills and vales with a beauty far in excess of anything man can do? "Even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these,"

referring to the flowers of the fields. It would be a shame for us not to appear as becoming as we possibly can.

Why should Easter be a joyous day to the Christian? The fifteenth chapter of first Corinthians is the resurrection chapter for the Christian. Vs. 3, 4. "For I delivered unto you first of all, that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the Scriptures." Then the apostle give many proofs of his resurrection as we have before stated.

He says further, "If there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen. Then they also which have fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable," (vs. 13, 18, 19). But what does the apostle say, affirming Christ's resurrection? "But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept," (vs. 20). Have we not gone into our orchards or gardens and how proud we were of the first fruits we found. Christ is the first fruits and his fruits are the golden grain that the angels will garner at the last day.

Why should a Christian be joyous above all beings on earth? Hear the apostle say, "How are the dead raised up? and with body do they come? Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die," (vs. 35-36). Here is the joy of the Christian. He is planted in the grave, but as the seed dies and from the dying seed comes forth a tree, a flower or shrub; so shall our bodies in the great resurrection come forth as plants of grandeur and beauty in the garden of the Lord.

One of these days if you die before the resurrection and you are a child of God, the minute you die your spirit will soar away to be with Jesus. Then in a coming day Christ will come back to earth; the bodies of the saints will be rised from their sleeping dust, but they will be changed to spiritual bodies and be caught up to meet the Lord in glory, so shall we be ever with the Lord. Praise his Holy name.

Humility is perfect quietness of heart. It is to have no trouble.

It is never to be fretted or irritated or sore or disappointed. It is to expect nothing, to wonder at nothing that is done to me.

It is to be at rest when nobody praises me and when I am blamed or despised. It is to have a blessed home in the Lord, where I can go in and shut the door and kneel to my Father in secret, and am at peace as in the deep sea of calmness when all around and above is trouble.

—Andrew Murray

PERSONAL INFORMATION CHANGES

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100 N. Applewood Ct.
Rocky Mount, NC 27803
(252) 443-1226
<psmith105@cox.net>

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The deadline for submissions to *The Free Will Baptist* is the 5th day of the month prior to publication. (Example: Items to be published in a January issue must be in no later than the 5th day of December.) You may submit items by any of the following methods:

- E-mail to <editor@fwbpress.com>,
- Fax to (252) 746-9248, Attn: Editor,
- Hand deliver, or
- Mail to: Editor, *The Free Will Baptist*
PO Box 159
Ayden, NC 28513.

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The advertising rates listed below are now in effect for churches, auxiliary organizations, and individuals. These charges will apply to any announcements, coming event listings, invitations, and registration forms. There is no charge for article submissions. If you have any questions, contact the editor at (800) 849-3927 ext. 227 or by e-mail at <editor@fwbpress.com>.

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WESTSIDE CHURCH, Kinston, NC is seeking a full-time senior pastor. Please send resumés to: Brad Tilghman, Pulpit Committee Chairman, 2010 Gray-Tilghman Rd., Kinston, NC 28501, or contact him at (252) 522-5729.

REEDY BRANCH CHURCH, Pitt County, is seeking a full-time youth director. Any interested persons should send a resumé to: Reedy Branch Church, Youth Committee, 4457 Reedy Branch Rd., Winterville, NC 28590.

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THE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST MONTHLY PLANNER April 2005



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Meeting dates and locations are subject to change. You are encouraged to call in advance to confirm meeting schedules.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Mid-year Spiritual Life Banquet — Morning Star Retreat	2 Morning Star Retreat
3 Morning Star Retreat	4 Executive Committee Meeting	5	6 Western District Auxiliary Convention	7	8	9 Albemarle Woman's Auxiliary Convention — Cape Fear Woman's Auxiliary Conference — Cape Fear Youth Rally
10	11 Central Conference Board of Ordination Meeting	12	13	14 Layman's League Executive Board Meeting, VFW Building, 7 P.M.	15	16 Cragmont Spring Swing Golf Tournament
17	18	19	20	21 Pastor/ Deacon Seminar— Cragmont	22 MOC Spring Fling Concert — Pastor/Deacon Seminar— Cragmont	23 Pastor/ Deacon Seminar— Cragmont
24 Good Shepherd Sunday in OFWB Churches	25	26	27	28	29	30

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NOTES:

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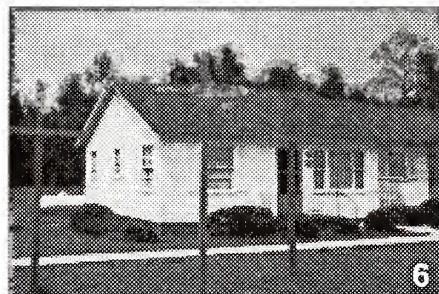
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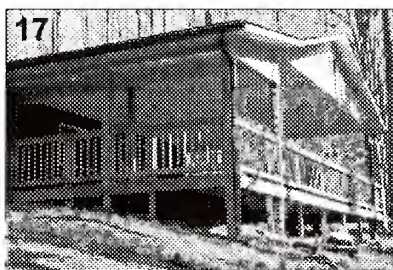
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POWER VERSE

To everything there is a season, and a
time to every purpose under heaven
(Ecclesiastes 3:1).

A SPRINGTIME MEDITATION

by Darren E. Davenport, Editor

Another springtime is coming upon us. The landscapes are beautifully renewed with God-given color—and how sweet and wonderful it is!

The month of April brings to me another birthday, as well. Being another year older has, for one thing, added a year's worth of experiences to my bank of memories. Some of those memories are good and some of them are bad—and some of them are just there. Even though I don't currently have any children of my own, I greatly contribute to the raising of three boys ages 8, 15, and 16. My wife and I have anything but a boring life. It has its moments of mundaneness, sorrow, and excitement. And I love every minute of it—really! Sameness is for the birds!

Meditate with me on the words of Ecclesiastes 3:1–13 (NIV), “There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill

and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend,

a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace. What does the worker gain from his toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on men. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they

cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end. I know that there is nothing better for men than to be happy and do good while they live. That everyone may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all his toil—this is the gift of God.”

Time is a God-given commodity. Let's use it wisely!



THE KING JAMES VERSION

by C. H. Overman, Editor Emeritus

During recent years, there has been a great increase in the types and varieties of Bibles. A visit to any Christian bookstore certainly bears this out. There are Bibles for all ages—study Bibles for youth, men, women, etc., and many can be purchased in different versions, translations, paraphrasings, amplified, magnified, and modernized. So, in reality, there are many choices, whether each one is a good choice or not.

On August 30, 1952, upon completing the requirements for ordination, the Western Conference of North Carolina presented me with a King James Version Scofield Bible. I still have it, although it is rather dilapidated. I have no plans to part with it because it is a part of such an important time in my life. Throughout the years, I have owned several Bibles, but its always been the King James Version that I have taken into the pulpit. The one I now use was presented to me by the Ayden Free Will Baptist Church upon the completion of ten years of pastoral services.

Although versions and translations abound, the King James Version still maintains its popularity. It has been described by some as a work of majesty and beauty, with a dignity and reverence all its own. History refers to it as King James' crowning achievement. The 54 men who were appointed to serve on the translation committee were

scholars with great abilities; thus a first-class work was the result.

The most-often heard reason for using other versions, especially those of more modern language, is that the King James Version is difficult to understand. I'm inclined to say, “So what!” Truth and understanding does not happen automatically. The quick fix and short cuts of modern society is not always the best solution. The Holy Bible is a book of riches—a book of depth and marvelous revelations, given to us by God. We don't

simply read it; we study it. We delve into its truths, but we never fathom its depths. The greatest Bible scholar has never been able to close its pages and declared, “That's it, I have finished and all truth is now mine.” There's always more to learn, more to study, more to

meditate upon.

It's good to be able to pull several versions from our shelves in order to gain a better understanding of some verse or passage. I have several to draw from, but it's the King James Version that is special to me. From early childhood it has been my preference and it will continue to be.

There are many resources to help us understand the Word; therefore, without hesitancy, I can turn to these resources, take my King James Version and keep right on studying and learning.



From Burdens I Am Free...

Ultimate Fun and Relaxation at Cragmont Assembly

by Tara Dixon, Reporter

(This article is reprinted, with permission, from D. H. Conley High School's student newspaper.

Tara is a member of Black Jack Church in Pitt County.)

If you are like me, you are tired of hearing the same old things that kids did last summer. Everyone either went to the beach, met that special guy or girl, or got a job. Well, for those of you who hate that boring old list. I have found a summer getaway different from any other.

Christian Cadet Camp at Cragmont Assembly is held for one week every summer. The idea of summer church camp in the mountains may sound a little elementary for most high school students, and I must admit that it sounded that way to me at first. However, Christian Cadet Camp ended up being the best thing that happened to me last summer.

Cragmont is a log cabin styled resort facility in the mountains of North Carolina. It includes a hotel and several dorm style cabins. Also on the campus are a gymnasium, soccer field, volleyball sandpit, kitchen, dining room,

campfire pit, recreational center, chapel, and a giant set of swings overlooking the mountain side. Its calming style creates the perfect atmosphere for rest and relaxation.

Not only is the camp relaxing, it's super fun as well! While there students from all over the state can participate in a wide array of activities, mountain climbing, sports, crazy games, drive-in outdoor movies, challenges, scavenger hunts, dancing, acting, and ping-pong.

My cabin got challenged to build a fort in the dark, so we made one out of duct tape. Needless to say from a bunch of girls, we lost that challenge. I also climbed two mountains while I was there, and boy was it hard! Campers are also given the opportunity to leave campus to go to the pool, the mall, or a variety of theme parks.

Christian Cadet Camp had a huge new addition this year with the 6:22 band. A popular band from Greenville,

their fresh musical talent and unique personalities made them a wonderful addition that no one will ever forget!

As a young Christian teenager, the trip is worth it to me because of the time of worship and time with God. Anyone at the camp will be happy to tell you that is the main purpose and focus of the entire week.

Students are given the opportunity to learn and worship in several ways. Every morning, time is set aside for quiet time to pray or study devotional books. Small groups are separated by age and gender and allowed learning time from leaders. Group worship takes place with the band three times a day in the chapel. These services include dancing singing, drama, and preaching.

So if you're like me a fun-loving teenager who likes some excitement when telling about summer activities, consider Cragmont Assembly and smile for me!



April is Home Missions and Evangelism Month Sunday, April 24, 2005 Good Shepherd Sunday

Help us as we are working to establish new missions. We now have four possibilities. Your funds will help us to "Touch Lives for a Lifetime."



CELEBRATING 33 YEARS OF OUTREACH MINISTRY

"Give us this day our daily bread" (Matthew 6:11 KJV).

We are celebrating our 33rd year in outreach ministry through HOME MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM. From our beginning in 1972, this ministry has shown steady growth and, in 1997, added DISASTER RELIEF MINISTRY to its list. Research indicates that many people are seeking guidance; therefore, we the Church must provide every available opportunity to share the Gospel.

Home Missions and Evangelism have truly been a powerful voice and continues to be as we strive to involve our churches and mission/churches in outreach programs for their communities. We provide workshops and programs that will enhance the growth of every church.

Spreading the WORD OF GOD is in the hands of each congregation. Will your church accept the challenge to help Home Missions and Evangelism fulfill the promises of God for those who need to hear? Let's ask God to "Give us this day our daily bread." When we pray for daily bread, we ask God for opportunities to SERVE AND GROW. For those in other situations, we should ask for BREAD, SHELTER, and daily SUPPORT. To advance our church through HOME MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM and THE HARVEST CONNECTION, we must have every Original Free Will Baptist Church supporting the work of this ministry.

HOME MISSIONS

A. CHURCH PLANTING

Sunrise Landing, Point Harbor, NC

Living Faith, Landis, NC, Director/Pastor Earl Bittle

Charity, Whiteville, NC, Director/Pastor Shelton Cribb

4 new possibilities

B. ETHNIC MISSIONS

H'mongs

9 worship groups, California

2 worship groups, North Carolina

1 worship group, St. Paul, Minnesota

1 worship group, Las Vegas, NV

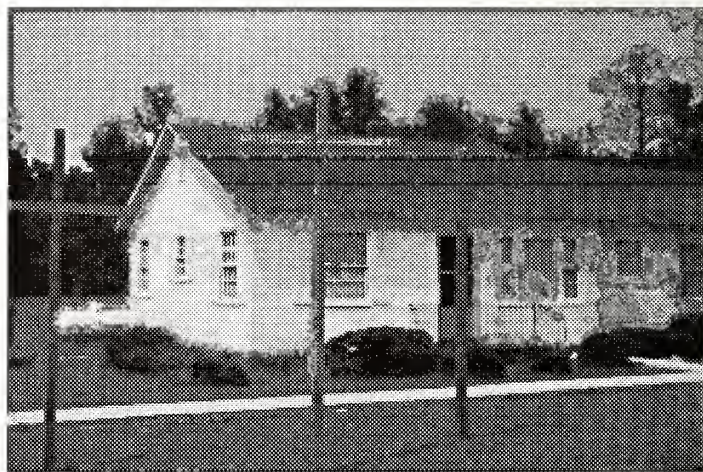
1 worship group, Salt Lake City, UT

1 worship group, Milwaukee, WI

H'mong Youth Camp, California

H'mong Youth Camp, North Carolina

3 new Spanish possibilities



Charity Church

EVANGELISM

A. CHURCH GROWTH

1. Video ("Church Growth Kit for the Small Church")

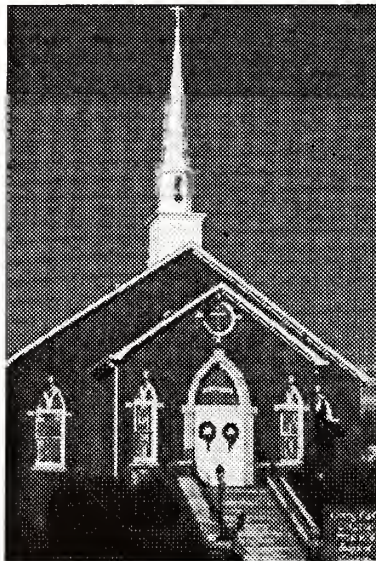
2. In-reach Ministry

B. FAITH SHARING

1. Outreach Ministry

2. Invitational Visitation

C. DISCIPLESHIP—Associates in Ministry (AIM)



Living Faith Church

D. COMMISSION ON SCOUTING



A Resource for the Church—The church has become deeply concerned about providing a program under Christian leadership that reaches into a youth's own world to guide his conduct and mold his character as he engages in leisure time activities. Churches are finding that the Boy Scouts of America offers such a program. Scouting is an ideal resource available to churches to complement or expand their work in a multifaceted ministry to youth.

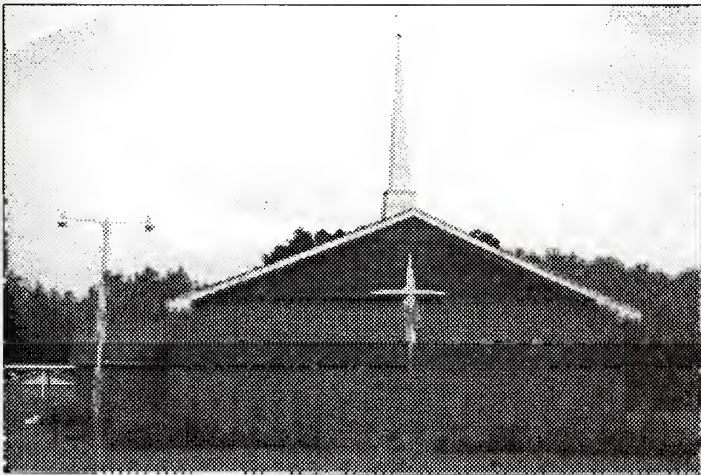
E. TLC (TOUCHING LIVES CORPS)

- 1. College students, single adults, married couples, senior citizens.
- 2. Persons who desire to do Home Missions endeavors for a weekend, a week, or a month.

TLC
(Touching Lives Corps)

for persons or group who desire to do evangelism endeavors for a weekend, a week, or more.

- 3. Persons who are willing to be responsible for the raising for their own financial support for a Home Missionary "enterprise" may apply. If they are accepted, they will serve in the Touching Lives Corps.
- 4. In cooperation with Sunday School Ministry and Marlboro Church we were able to provide Vacation Bible School for the Lao Evangelical Church of Valdese, NC.



Free Spirit Church

F. TAAC (TELLING AMERICANS ABOUT CHRIST)

Membership is composed of ordained ministers who have responded to a special call as an evangelist.

Purpose: To tell the "Good News" through:

- 1. Crusade Evangelism
- 2. Youth Evangelism Crusades
- 3. Local Church Evangelistic Services
- 4. Evangelism Training in Local Churches

G. HARVEST COVENANT PROGRAM

The declining attendance in our churches and Sunday Schools should call our attention to the fact that our people are not receiving what they desire from our worship and educational programs. Do we know where to begin to turn the declining church into a functioning and growing church?

Each Original Free Will Baptist church could pinpoint its strengths and weaknesses. Not all of our churches are good at everything. However, all of our churches can improve our worship services, Christian educational methods, and outreach ministry.

The HARVEST COVENANT Program is designed to help our churches find the unique opportunities for developing a functioning, growing church, for the cause of the Kingdom. HARVEST COVENANT takes church growth to a new level. Those who participate will develop skills of working, sharing, and growing in Christian love.

Churches that are in the Harvest Covenant Program include Free Spirit Church—the Rev. Bobby Futrell, Director/Pastor and Daly's Chapel Church—Nelson Rollins, Director.

H. PROJECT KIDS KARE



Many children in America are in need and will be TOUCHED FOR A LIFETIME by Project Kids Kare, a ministry to children through The Harvest Connection. By participating in this unique project, you, your family, church, school, or organization will be helping to reach needy children in America.

As you prepare your boxes with school supplies, toys, and small gifts, you will be sending a message of love and concern. Children who receive your boxes will learn of the wonderful love of Jesus through you. When a child receives a box, they will also receive literature about the Good News of Jesus Christ.

PRAY—for the child who will receive your gift box. Remember you are participating in A Child Evangelism Project through Project Kids Kare.

(Continued on next page)

THE HARVEST CONNECTION



The purposes of The Disaster Relief Ministry of Original Free Will Baptists are:

A. To provide the skills of carpentry, plumbing, electrical, mechanical, cleaning, repairs, and other skills for those who have experienced DISASTER.

B. To provide the opportunity for Original Free Will Baptists to be involved in a Compassion Ministry, sharing our Christian experiences.

C. To provide the opportunity for our denomination to present THE CHURCH IN ACTION.

D. At the same time we assist those who have experienced DISASTER, we will endeavor to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in every way possible.

To date we have assisted 16 churches and more than 90

families. We have had teams working in Englehard, Pamlico, Craven, and Carteret counties, St. Cloud, Florida, Clyde, and Valdese, NC.

For more information or to have a representative to assist your church in being prepared should a disaster strike your area, call (252) 746-4963 or e-mail <assistant@ofwbmissions.org>.

DISASTER RELIEF TEAM

Executive Director

The Rev. David C. Hansley

Coordinator

Mr. Roy Wetherington

Food Coordinator

The Rev. Harold Swinson

Tent Coordinator

The Rev. Tim Heath

Warehouse Coordinator

Mr. Bob Alexander

Casework Coordinators

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Cook

Administrative Assistant

Mrs. Laura Monroe

BOARD DIRECTORS

Chairman

Mr. Howard McPherson

Vice Chairman

Mr. Peyton Lee

Secretary

The Rev. Bill Mobley

The Rev. Mrs. Carlee Stallard

The Rev. Ray Wells

The Rev. Lewis Forsythe

The Rev. Bruce Jones

"FRIENDSHIP"

by John R. Link

This article is reprinted from The Free Will Baptist, Wednesday, October 7, 1936 edition.

This essay is intended primarily for young people, because youth is the natural friendship-making period of life. However, it must be emphasized that the number of birthdays is no criterion of age, because the qualities of youth may exist more in a man of sixty than in a boy of sixteen; so dear, reader, if you have an appetite for adventurous growth rather than love for ease, consider yourself young and read on.

The problem before us is that of learning to live the life of love. "He who has learned to love—and only he—has learned to live" (King). We see the truth of this statement when we realize that the only eternal things are persons and personal relations—"[Love] never faileth" (1 Corinthians 13:8). Friendship is the highest personal relation, and is the key to unlock hearts of love. Those who are united in marriage ought to be united also in friendship—a purely unselfish love.

Mrs. Browning is said to have asked the beloved Charles Kingsley: "What is the secret of your life? Tell me, that I may make mine beautiful, too." He replied: "I had a friend."

Rendell Harris once said: "I never ask God, or hardly ever, for outward things; I do not know that I ever asked Him for

glory or honor, and I hope I never shall; but I sometimes say things like this, that if God will give me three or four good friends, I think I can manage to continue to the end, because love is the machinery of life and the motive power."

What one of you has not been proud of his real friends?

Especially is that true if you are fortunate enough to have among your acquaintances one who really knows how to be a friend. Friendship is an art, and it is such a valuable art, young friend, that each one of us should ask himself the question: How can I become a friend? A high type of friendship requires first self-respect:

"...To thine own self be true,

And it must follow,
as the night the day,

Thou canst not then
be false to any man."

—William Shakespeare

You must feel that you have something noble and worthy of you to do which will build into your life no more than yourself, and the most profitable gift is a friendly personality gained by a slow process of culture. The capacity of love

(Continued on next page)



is deep laid in every individual, but it must be brought out through the shell of selfishness.

"I have to live with myself, and so

I want to be fit for myself to know;

Always to look myself straight in the eye

I don't want to stand, with the setting sun

And hate myself for the things I've done.

I want to go out with head erect;

I want to deserve all men's respect;

But here in the struggle for fame and self

I want to be able to like myself.

I don't want to look at myself and know

That I'm bluster and bluff and empty show.

I never can fool myself; and so,

Whatever happens, I want to be

Self-respecting and conscience-free."

—Edgar A. Guest

A high friendship, also, requires respect for others. One can never become a friend by ministering to the baser desires of folks, but by challenging the best in them. Each one of us likes to associate with people who call out the best in us. Fortunate is the boy that marries a girl who continually challenges the best in him. Beware of the "friend" who takes you as you are and grants your every whim.

Pretense must play no part in the relation of friends. The smallest pretense, when discovered, has a tendency to cause one to lose confidence in his friend. Without confidence there can be no respect; without respect there can be no love; and where love is absent friendship soon starves.

Friendship requires a mode of expression. Many homes and other intimate groups suffer because there is no expression of love—no spoken gratitude for little things done, but so much taken for granted. The genuine friend is never lacking in his expression of love, and he pays careful attention to the small details of personal relations. Black says: "Attention to detail is the secret of success in every sphere of life, and little kindnesses, little acts of confidences, are all that

most of us are called upon to perform, but they are all that needed to keep a friendship sweet."

Finally, to be a real friend one must cultivate the essential qualities of a friend given by Jesus in the beatitudes:

1. He is *teachable*. One must be humble, tolerant, and open-minded. Such an individual is ready to take suggestions, and is able to enter into the viewpoint of others; thus he enriches friendship.

2. He is *penitent*. One must be ready to recognize one's faults; thus one becomes more worthy of friendship as the days go by.

3. He is *self-controlled*. This keeps our brute qualities which often spoil friendship. He masters his pleasures instead of letting them master him.

4. He is *eager for the best*. Each day one must want to bring to one's friend a richer, stronger, and better self. Would that not be a fine motto for each member of a family group?

5. He is *merciful*. A friend is a brother, not a judge.

6. He is *pure of heart*. Such an individual gives to his friend a sense of clean noble companionship. His strength of friendship is as the strength of ten, because his heart is pure.

7. He is a *peacemaker*. The back-biter, gossip, and nagger can never be a friend. A real friend likes to see others in friendly relation, and he does all he can to promote friendship among others.

8. He is *self-sacrificing*. This is love at its highest. "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13).

"If you've never made a comrade

Feed the world a sweeter place

Because you lived within it,

And had served it with your grace;

If you've never heard a woman

Or a little child proclaim

A blessing on your bounty—

You're a poor hand at the game."

—Anonymous

Vacation Bible School supplies are now available at your local Bible bookstores:

Ayden Bible Bookstore

3928 Lee Street

Ayden, NC 28513

(252) 746-6128

(800) 849-3927

Kinston Bible Bookstore

123 N. Queen Street

Kinston, NC 28501

(252) 527-2843

(800) 875-8049

New Bern Bible Bookstore

1232 S. Glenburnie Road

New Bern, NC 28562

(252) 638-6193

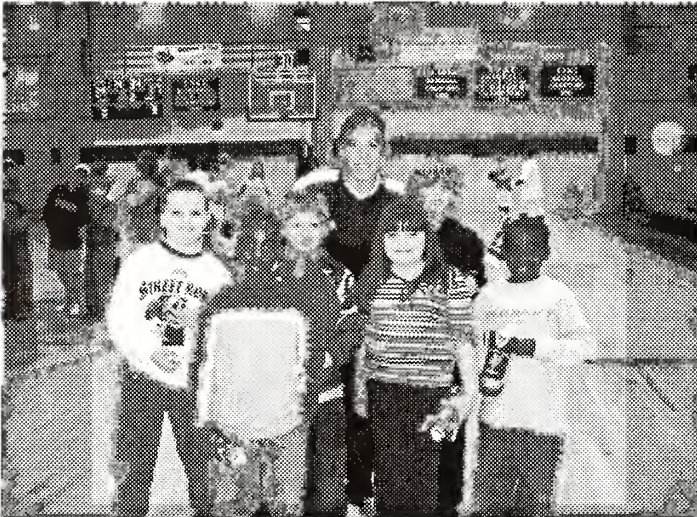
(800) 875-8048

Get your orders in early!



CHURCH NIGHT 2005

During the 22nd Annual Church Night Basketball game held on February 19, 2005, 47 churches attended with over 1000 spectators in attendance. Churches in attendance included: Haymount, Wooten Chapel, Smyrna, Smith's New Home, Spring Hill, Lee's Chapel, Rains Crossroads, Pleasant Grove (Harnett County), Powhatan, Faith (Johnston County), Marlboro, Antioch (Wayne County), Core Creek, Free Union (Albemarle Conference), Saints Stevens, Daniel's Chapel, Pine Level, Beaulaville Pentecostal, Marsh Swamp, White Oak (Bladenboro), Bethel (Johnston County), Saint's Delight, Westside, Silver Creek, Little Creek, May's Chapel, Hugo, Robert's Grove, Ormondsville, Saint Steven's, Whaley's Chapel, White Oak Church (LaGrange), Stoney Creek, New Sandy Hill, Shady Grove, Wintergreen, Vision of Faith, Little Rock, Saint Paul (Sampson County), and Beaulaville.



K-6 Softball Throw: Winners included: Jaicari Boone (St. Julia Church), Madison Wood (Smyrna Church), Jaquez Boone (St. Julia Church), Blake Holloman (Powhatan Church), Jamie Council (Free Union Church, Albemarle Conference) and Ryne Woodard (Rains Crossroads Church). They are pictured with Jamie Kylis, Women's Softball Coach at Mount Olive College.



7-12 Softball Throw: Winners included: Brooke Barefoot (Smyrna Church), Tyler Brill (Core Creek Church), Stephen Hawkins (Core Creek Church), Ryan Miller (Core Creek Church), Will Freeze (Free Union Church, Albemarle Conference), Dillon Coates (May's Chapel Church), and Parker Baucom (Wooten Chapel Church).



Young Disciples Sing the National Anthem: Members of The Young Disciples, under the direction of Donald Coates, sing the National Anthem before the basketball game.



Samantha Benson, current MOC Pickle Classic Queen (Silver Creek Church), presented Jeremy Crocker (Pine Level Church) an autographed basketball of the nationally-ranked Mount Olive College Men's Trojans basketball team for having the largest church attendance.

COMING EVENTS

SPRING 2005

Business Breakfast Briefing

Date TBA • 7:30 A.M. • Sheraton Grand, New Bern

Good food and networking. Guest speaker for this event will be Cam McRae, owner/operator and President of Tands, Inc., a franchise that now operates 32 Bojangles' Famous Chicken 'n Biscuit restaurants in eastern North Carolina. Appointed by Governor Easley to the NC Department of Transportation in 2000, Mr. McRae has been a strong advocate for eastern North Carolina, helping to promote the economic development for the NC Global Transpark and the region. Learn more about state transportation efforts in our area.

An Evening With Rodgers & Hammerstein

April 14 • 6 P.M. • Lois K. Murphy Regional Center

The Mount Olive College Concert Choir will present a dinner theater show which will include a review of musical performances and scenes from Rodgers and Hammerstein classics such as *Oklahoma!*, *The Sound of Music*, and *Carousel*. Tickets are \$30. Join us for a great dinner and great entertainment. For reservations, call Krystal Faison at (919) 658-2502, ext. 1362. Seating is limited.

Spring Fling

April 22 • 8 P.M. • Mount Olive Historic Assembly Hall

The Mount Olive College Singers will present their annual Spring Fling Concert. The theme for this year's performance is American Musical Theater and will feature popular songs from hit musicals. This event is free to the public. For more information, contact Dr. Larry Oldham at (919) 658-7184 or e-mail <loldham@moc.edu>.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

April 5—Mount Olive College vs. Kinston Indians 7 P.M. at Grainger Stadium in Kinston. Contact Dianne B. Riley, alumni director for tickets at (919) 658-7761 or e-mail her at <driley@moc.edu>.

April 10—Bring the family for a Sunday afternoon of strong NCAA athletic competition. MOC soccer exhibition with ECU at Trojan Field and a softball game with Queens at the Nancy Chapman Cassell Field—all happening on the Mount Olive College campus at 2 P.M.

May 1—"Family Day Celebration" from 3–6 P.M.—all Mount Olive College at Wilmington alumni, as well as current students and their families are invited to a "Family Day Celebration" at Hugh McRae Park in Wilmington. Food and fun for the entire family with games planned for the children; Special recognition of May 2005 graduates and all alumni. Contact: Dianne B. Riley at (919) 658-7761 or via e-mail at <driley@moc.edu>.

ENROLLMENT NEWS AT

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

The Admissions Team at Mount Olive College invites high school and college transfers to make application at <www.moc.edu> for the 2005 fall term. Merit, talent, and athletic scholarships are still available. Residence hall spaces are still available. For more information, contact Tim Woodard, director of admissions, at (800) 653-0854 or (919) 658-2502 or e-mail him at <twoodard@moc.edu>.

Freshman Advising Days for high school graduates planning to attend Mount Olive College in the fall of 2005 will be held on Friday, June 10 and Friday, June 24, 2005, starting at 8:30 A.M. For more information, contact Jennifer Merritt, assistant director of admissions at (800) 653-0854 or (919) 658-2502 or e-mail her at <jmerritt@moc.edu>.

One night a week programs starting at...

MOC at Mount Olive

Contact Allision Sullivan, director of evening college admissions at (800) 653-0854 or (919) 658-2502 or e-mail her at <asullivan@moc.edu>.

- Criminal Justice Administration: Saturday, May 7, 9 A.M.
- Management and Organizational Development: Thursday, May 26, 6 P.M.

MOC at Wilmington

Contact Alan Coheley, director at (800) 300-7478 or (919) 256-0255 or e-mail him at <acoheley@moc.edu>.

- Management and Organizational Development: Wednesday, April 13, 6 P.M.
- Heritage: Monday, April 18, 6 P.M.
- Management and Organizational Development: Thursday, May 19, 6 P.M.
- Criminal Justice Administration: Tuesday, May 24, 6 P.M.

MOC at New Bern

Contact Vaughn Purnell, director, (800) 868-8479 or (252) 633-4464 or e-mail at <vpurnell@moc.edu>.

- Management and Organizational Development: Tuesday, May 3, 6 P.M.
- Modular Religion Major: Monday, May 9, 6 P.M.

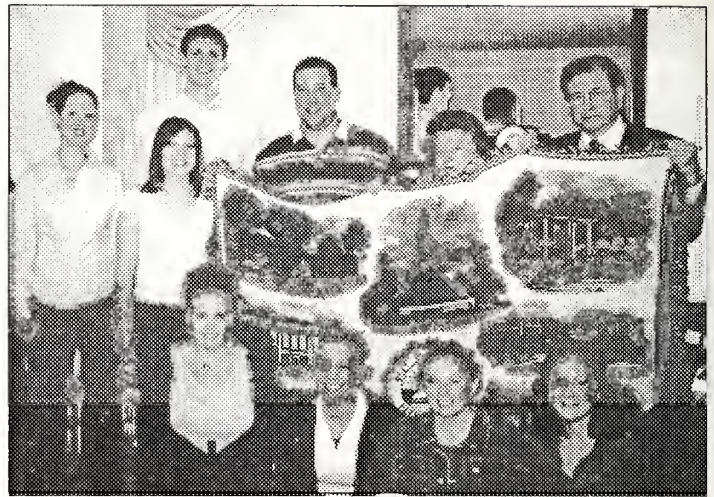
MOC at Research Triangle Park

Contact Robin Spaid, director, (888) 258-5188 or (919) 941-2970 or e-mail at <rspaid@moc.edu>.

- Heritage, Thursday, May 19, 6 P.M.
- NEW PROGRAM—Management of Information Systems (MIS): Tuesday, June 7, 6 P.M., June 7
- Management and Organizational Development: Tuesday, June 28, 6 P.M.

KEEPING IN TOUCH: ALUMNI NEWS

Undergraduate Alumni Association Convene at Home of Dr. and Mrs. Raper—The Undergraduate Alumni Association (UAA), led by Dianne Riley, held their February meeting at the home of Dr. and Mrs. W. Burkette Raper. In appreciation of the Rapers' years of service to Mount Olive College and for opening their home to the UAA, the group presented the couple with a Mount Olive College throw depicting scenes from the Mount Olive campus. Rhonda Houston (Deep Run Church), president, made the presentation. The students shared why they chose Mount Olive College and Dr. Raper provided insight into the early years of the College. Amy Moody, one of the non-FWB in the group, commented, "I would like to say since the UAA visited Dr. Raper's home I feel privileged to attend a school that so many individuals put their love and hard work into making this institute for higher education so that we could have what we have today here at Mount Olive College. I'd like to say "Thank You."



UAA present Mount Olive College throw to Dr. and Mrs. Raper.

NEW MANAGEMENT OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS MAJOR OFFERED AT MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

This spring Mount Olive College unveiled the newest in a long line of programs that has been specifically designed to accommodate the needs of its growing adult student population. The program, called Management of Information Systems—or MIS for short—focuses on using technology as a tool to manage information in the context of business. The program includes a core of courses focusing on management of information systems, systems analysis and design, database management systems, networks and data communications and strategic information systems planning.

According to Ted Janicki, chair of the department of computer information systems, "The MIS degree will prepare students for a management-level career in the ever-evolving information technology sector by teaching them how to analyze, design, and implement information systems and by offering them the opportunity to study practical applications of the latest technologies." Additionally, Janicki noted that the College has partnered with the Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA), known throughout the technology field as the industry standard, to offer MIS students post-course CompTIA certification exams at low cost.

"Business is an integral part of everyday life and the people who facilitate business transactions play a big role in business success," Janicki stated. "That is the reason that Mount Olive College has developed this MIS major...to help students develop the skills needed for doing business well into the future," he continued.

According to Janicki, the MIS curriculum reflects input from both industry and universities. "It responds to industry requests for both increased emphasis in technical orientation and improved skill in individual and group interactions," he said.

The program will be launched at Mount Olive College's RTP site in June and then offered system wide throughout the College's five locations in eastern North Carolina. The 67 week program leads to a bachelor of science degree in management of information systems.

As with all of the College's adult oriented programming, classes are offered one night a week for four hours. For the convenience of the working adult student, books are waiting at the student's desk at the start of each new course, so there is no waiting in long lines for books. According to Janicki, there are no lines at registration or spending countless hours trying to register on-line. Once a student signs up for the program, all of the classes are taught in sequential order.

"It's all about making our programs affordable, convenient, and accessible to our students. We understand the needs of working adults and we want to help them achieve their educational goals while continuing to work full time and managing the responsibilities of a busy family life," Janicki concluded.

Registration has begun for the first cohort and space is limited. Invest in your future and invest in yourself! Contact Mr. Plato Smith at (888) 258-5188 or via e-mail at <psmith@moc.edu> to schedule an appointment, ask questions, and/or plan your MIS academic pursuits.



RACHEL'S JOURNEY: WEEK 5—SALTILLO



Hey Y'all!

Wow! This week has been absolutely incredible! I left for Saltillo on Sunday afternoon around 2:30, and I arrived about 8:15!

There was a really

nice lady in the seat beside me, so between the movies and the naps we were able to have a nice conversation. And at 8:15 the week began...I didn't stop until the following Saturday after Bible School in Rosita.

All week long we worked in Ramos doing Bible School in the mornings. Ramos is a suburb of Saltillo, and before this week, they only had met with the people there three times. It is a brand new work that Brother Erasmo and Brother Escobar are trying to open. Our prayer is that it will be an established mission by December. (Please add this to your list.) We had about 20–25 kids every day who live in the neighborhood, and about 19 of us came from Saltillo each day to work! A lady named Maria let us use her patio for the Bible School, and she is the main contact in the community. She is very receptive to the Gospel especially for the sake of her children; however, she thinks there is too much sin in her past for her to have a chance now. They have started very slow with her and those who have gathered there—explaining what the Bible is, who God is. There is very little foundation for them to build on right now. Please pray that Maria will come to understand that nothing is too horrible for Jesus' blood to cover. Because of several things that happened within the

week, I know that all of this is from the Lord, so the Devil will do his best to come against it.

On Monday we had two trucks loaded down with people and equipment, but Brother Escobar had a wreck on Monday. (Again, God's plan in action). Saltillo is the capital of this state, and the streets are always crowded with people. Only by the grace of God, no one in either vehicle was hurt even though Brother Escobar's truck spun around several times. The spare tire flew off and went through a huge plate glass window, but again no one was hurt. Although there was quite a bit of material damage done, everyone walked away. We were so thankful that none of us were in the back of the truck with them when the accident happened. Again I was reminded that God still has work for me to do here on Earth, so it is in my best interest to be about it!

Monday and Tuesday afternoons I had the opportunity to speak at two youth meetings, and we had time to fellowship after the service as well! It has been my prayer ever since Chris and I started dating that God will give me the opportunity to share all that has happened over the past year and a half with the right people—especially teenagers. The last night, He opened the door to share a little with them. It's such an important thing to learn...before you can have the "perfect relationship" you have to be in right relationship with God. Most always, that takes time, so we have to wait on God's perfect timing to experience His best! (And just as a side note...there are not words to describe how well worth the wait it is to have God's best!)

Wednesday through Friday, we did

Vacation Bible School at Brother Erasmo's church—they were so welcoming. (I stayed with Brother Erasmo and his family...another family that has a special place in my heart! God has turned their lives around as well, and is using them in a mighty way to serve Him! Maybe I can share their story one day!) When I arrived on Sunday night, several of the kids saw the truck so they came running to the house. They also made a big poster welcoming me back to Saltillo, and wrote me letters telling me how excited they were that I was going to be their teacher again! I couldn't believe it! We all went over to the church and prayed together (the children included) to put the week in God's hands! Absolutely incredible, I tell you! They have done such a great job training these children. They know how to pray. They have learned all kinds of Scripture, they sing their praises to the Lord loudly, and they are well-behaved and orderly in the church. I shed a few tears when I had to leave them on Friday night!

Not only did we work hard all week, but we stayed up late talking as well! The fellowship (and the food) was great and it wasn't extremely hot either! Thankfully when I had to say good-bye to the family I had only slept about 2 hours, so I was half asleep which made it a lot easier to leave. I slept on the bus on the way back and arrived in 1 1/2 hours less than it took to get there—apparently not as many people want to get on or off the bus at 4 A.M.

I hope you had a great week, and I look forward to sharing the pictures of all of these events with you! God bless you now and always!

Love in Christ, Rachel

AGAPE FWB CHURCH CELEBRATES ITS ANNIVERSARY

By Beth Dancil

The Agape Free Will Baptist Church, Inagawan, Palawan, Philippines celebrated its anniversary on October 31, 2004. Three major activities were held as follows: Thanksgiving Service, parlor games, and baptism.

The Thanksgiving Service started at 10 A.M. The speaker was the Rev. Eder Peralta. He delivered an inspiring message. After the service the children were excited to participate in the parlor games. After the games, the food was served. At 2 P.M. we conducted a baptismal service. There were two people who had accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. The Rev. Nerrie Peralta, the mission director, delivered an inspiring and remarkable message to the members and especially to the new converts.

We continually seek your prayers and support for the continuation of the work in our churches as we seek the lost until our Lord Jesus Christ returns. Thank God for His faithfulness!



Agape FWB Church congregation.



Baptism service.

YOUTH PROGRAM—SINAI FWB CHURCH SALTILLO, MEXICO

(Pastor Domitilo Hernandez)

by Antonio Escobar

The Sinai Free Will Baptist Church youth participated in a trimestrial study program. They studied the book of Daniel. This study helped them to evaluate their spiritual lives and showed that they can be a testimony to the Lord Jesus Christ.

We thank the Lord for the opportunity to work in the youth department. It is a great blessing and great satisfaction to teach these young people, and to prepare them for a life



Youth at Sinai.



The young people taking part in a dialogue of what they learned.

of service in the church as they mature spiritually in a solid biblical doctrine that is believed by Free Will Baptists. At the present, they are working in a good fellowship: inviting other youth to their meetings. We pray daily for them, and urge them to serve the Lord in ministry.

CHILD DEDICATION

by The Reverend Edito Madduma



A Child Dedication Service was held on December 26, 2004, in the Narra Free Will Baptist Church, Palawan, Philippines. There were four families who are new members of the church. They were committed to dedicating their children because they want to raise their children according to the teachings of the Bible.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP— NARRA FWB CHURCH PALAWAN, PHILIPPINES



The Young People's Fellowship meets every Saturday night. There are usually more than twenty in attendance. They have many activities such as Bible study, Bible games, and Christian singing contest. We thank the Lord for the enthusiasm and excitement our young people bring to the Narra Free Will Baptist Church. Brethren pray for us!

YOUTH PROGRAM—STREET WITNESSING SALTILLO, MEXICO

by Antonio Escobar

We ended a study program for the youth in November. It was a study organized to teach the youth to go out and witness in the streets, share literature, sing songs, and invite other young people to church. Their participation in this outreach was not only good for them, but also for the people who heard and saw them. They heard the testimonies of these young people, how they had an experience that truly helped them. They told of how this experience not only helped them in the church, but also to share their experiences of salvation with those who do not know Jesus. These young people learned how to go and invite other young people, and tell of the Good News of Jesus.

After finishing the work of street witnessing, they gathered in the church to sing and worship the Lord. They were in the church until three o'clock in the morning participating in different activities. We thank the Lord for these dedicated young people. May God continue to bless our youth.





SECOND ANNUAL FULCHER TIRE CRAGMONT SPRING SWING



Four Man Super Ball Tournament
Saturday, April 16, 2005
Carolina Pines Golf and Country Club

REGISTRATION FORM

Carolina Pines is located just off
US 70—12 miles east of New Bern
Cost: \$50 per Player—\$200 per Team
Format: Four Man Super Ball
Two Shotgun Starts: 8:30 A.M. and 1:15 P.M.
Limited to Twenty Teams Each Start—
Start Preferences Granted On A First Received Basis
Prizes Awarded At The End Of The Day
Light Lunch Provided
Handicap Each Player As An "A, B, C, or D"
Senior (60+) Division Available
Make Checks Payable to "Cragmont"
and return with registration form to:
Bryant Hines
203 Teachey Court
New Bern, NC 28562
Telephone: (252) 637-7171

Player 1 (Captain) _____ HNDCP _____ Age _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone _____ e-mail _____

Player 2 _____ HNDCP _____ Age _____

Player 3 _____ HNDCP _____ Age _____

Player 4 _____ HNDCP _____ Age _____

****Preferred Starting Time (circle one) 8:30 A.M. 1:15 P.M.**

2005 CAMP SCHEDULE

Morning Star
April 1-3, 2005

Teresa Ball
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road
Grifton, NC 28530
(252) 524-4677

**Ministerial Association
of OFWB**

September 12-15, 2005
Bryant Hines
203 Teachey Court
New Bern, NC 28562
(252) 633-2683

Day Spring Conference

June 6-11, 2005
Teresa Ball
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road
Grifton, NC 28530
(252) 524-4677

**Cragmont Youth
Conference**

June 13-18, 2005
Bryant Hines
203 Teachey Court
New Bern, NC 28562
(252) 633-2683

**Christian Cadet
Conference**

June 20-25, 2005
Wes Boyd
794 Church of God Road
Goldsboro, NC 27534
(919) 736-9436

**Youth Frontier Conference
(YFA/AFC)**

June 27-July 2, 2005
Frankie Baggett
5403 Weyerhaeuser Road
Ayden, NC 28513
(252) 746-7850

**General Youth II
Conference**

July 11-16, 2005
John Robert Harris
2514 Olde Dutch Court
Kinston, NC 28504
(252) 208-1781

**General Youth I
Conference**

July 18-23, 2005
Bryant Hines
203 Teachey Court
New Bern, NC 28562
(252) 633-2683

**Young People's Bible
Conference**

July 25-30, 2005
Rudy Owens
1515 US 70-A
Selma, NC 27576
(919) 965-2796

**August Women's
Auxiliary Conference**

August 1-6, 2005
Teresa Ball
6144 Weyerhaeuser Road
Grifton, NC 28530
(252) 524-4677

2005

Bed, Breakfast, and Blessing July 4-9, 2005

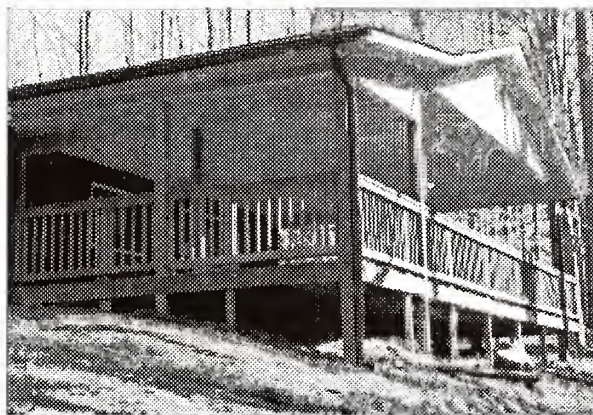
**For more information
Call (877) 669-7677**

2005 BED, BREAKFAST, AND BLESSING

Cragmont will again offer its Bed, Breakfast and Blessing week July 4-9, 2005. Come and use Cragmont as your evening place of rest and relaxation and have a great breakfast and a blessing for your day. Enjoy a week or any part of the week vacationing in the beautiful mountains of North Carolina.

The cost is \$15 per person/per day which includes a night's accommodation and breakfast. A deposit of \$15 per person is required. For more information or details about this unique summer offering for vacationing families, contact us at (877) 669-7677. Make your plans soon—last year's "Blessings" week filled early and was a great success.

THANK YOU



Thank you to the State Layman's League for raising the funds for the dining hall porch roof.



CHILDREN'S HOME

CHANGE FOR CHILDREN 2005

May is Children's Home Month. We will soon launch our "Change for Children Campaign." It was successful last year, and we know that God will bless the efforts of the many Free Will Baptists who will give their change to promote His child care ministry again this year. Churches already should have received the letter announcing "Change for Children," and the bulletin inserts. Change bags and information sheets are on the way.

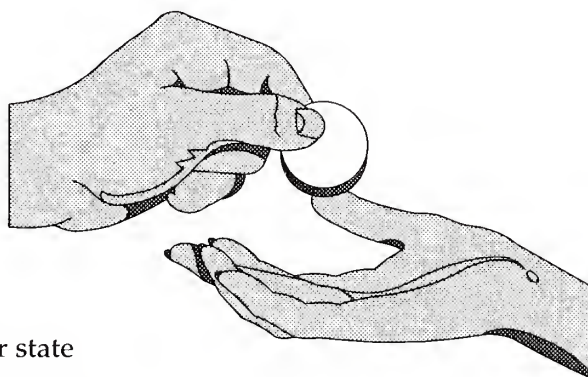
In doing some research, I recently came across these startling figures provided by Prevent Child Abuse NC. Did you know that:

- Every five minutes a child is abused or neglected?
- 25-40 children die each year as a result of abuse?
- 85% of the time, the perpetrator of child abuse is a biological parent?

These statistics are for the State of North Carolina. We sometimes need reminding that behind every statistic is a real child—boys or girls who live in our neighborhoods, go to school with our kids, ride the bus with our kids, play with our kids. These are the same kids who will someday help shape the future of our state and country. Can we afford to give up now?

With your past help, we have made a difference in the lives of children and families, and with God's grace, we will continue to press forward. You might ask – what good will a little bit of change do? The funds received from Change for Children will help during the crucial months of summer, when the kids are on summer break. During this time we utilize more food, more utilities, and more activities.

It was our goal from the beginning, 85 years ago, to provide compassionate care in a loving Christian environment, and it is still our goal today. With your continued support, God will give the increase as we continue to care for His children. Little is much when God is in it!



FOUNDER'S DAY CELEBRATION

The FWB Children's Home will be celebrating 85 years on Founder's Day, May 21, 2005 at 12 noon. Lunch will be served. The celebration will be held in the Whitley Center with Dr. Burkette Raper as the speaker. Please fill in the form below and join us for this special celebration.

FOUNDER'S DAY CELEBRATION

Please RSVP by May 16, 2005

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Code _____

Number in your party for lunch _____

Please mail to: FWB Children's Home, Inc., P.O. Box 249, Middlesex, NC 27557 or telephone: (252) 235-2161

CAMPUS VISITS



On February 22, Linda and Paul Gaskins, and Tahitia Stewart stopped by to leave some supplies and a check for the Children's Home. The gifts were collected by the Woman's Auxiliary and the Emanuel Sunday School of Saint's Delight Church, New Bern, NC. Thank you so much for remembering us with these special gifts.



On February 26, we had a visit from the youth group and other members of Grimsley Church, Snow Hill, NC. The youth group had undertaken a project to work together and provide an item from our Needs List. They purchased and delivered to us a much-needed stackable washer and dryer. While here, they took a campus tour, visited with residents, and provided games, refreshments, and a gift bag for each resident in attendance that day. Thank you so much for sharing with us.

NEEDS LIST

SUMMER TRIP SPONSOR
Cleaning & Laundry Supplies
Personal Care Items

Crock Pots (8 quart or larger)
Heavy duty Wagon for moving and
distributing commodities to cottages
Cubed Ice Machine



THE NINETY-THIRD ANNUAL SESSION OF THE CONVENTION OF ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS

"The Called Out People of God"

2005 Theme: "Building On This Rock" (1 Corinthians 3:11)

Tuesday, May 17, 2005

5:30 P.M. The First Annual IMPACT Banquet,
honoring all Original Free Will Baptist
Pastors (Murphy Center)

7:30 P.M. The Convention Worship Service
(College Hall)

Special Music by the Sanctuary Choir
of the First Free Will Baptist Church
of Tarboro

Message by Dr. Bobby Taylor, Presi-
dent of the Original Free Will Baptist
Children's Home

Wednesday, May 18

8:00 A.M. Registration—College Hall Lobby

9:00–9:30 A.M. Opening Session
(Devotions, President's Remarks, Ex-
ecutive Committee and Finance
Committee Reports)

9:45–10:15 A.M. MINISTRY UPDATE SESSION #1

10:25–10:55 A.M. MINISTRY UPDATE SESSION #2

11:15 A.M.–12 NOON Morning Worship Service
Worship Leader—Mr. Allen Moye,
Pianist—Mrs. Debby Gray (Winterville
OFWB Church)

Message by the Rev. Wayne Sheffield,
Pastor, Jakin OFWB Church, Jakin,
Georgia

12:05–12:30 P.M. Business Session (Nominations, Fra-
ternal Delegates, etc.)

12:30–1:30 P.M. Lunch

1:45–2:15 P.M. MINISTRY UPDATE SESSION #3

2:20–2:50 P.M. MINISTRY UPDATE SESSION #4

3:05–3:35 P.M. MINISTRY UPDATE SESSION #5

3:45–4:15 P.M. MINISTRY UPDATE SESSION #6

7:30 P.M. Annual Mission Rally—Hosted by the
Board of Home Missions and Evan-
gelism

Thursday, May 19

8:30–9 A.M. Registration Continues

9:00–9:20 A.M. Opening Session (Devotions, Misc.
Business, instructions for the day)

9:30–10 A.M.
10:10–10:40 A.M.
11:00–11:50 A.M.

MINISTRY UPDATE SESSION #7
MINISTRY UPDATE SESSION #8
Worship Service
Worship Leader—Mr. Allen Moye,
Pianist—Mrs. Debby Gray (Winterville
OFWB Church)
Message: "Can the Called Out People
of God Make a Difference?" (A can-
did conversation with the Revs. De
Eakes and Ray Wells)
Closing Session (Elections, Creden-
tials, Resolutions, Final Business,
Memorial Committee)
The 93rd Session of the Convention
of Original Free Will Baptist is
adorned.

LOCATIONS

- 1: College Hall—Main Floor
- 2: College Hall—Upstairs—Room 201
- 3: College Hall—Upstairs—Room 202
- 4: Rodgers Chapel
- 5: Henderson Room—111
- 6: Henderson Room—113

Wednesday, May 18

Session 1: 9:45–10:15 A.M.

Cragmont, Church Finance, FWB Press, Children's Home,
Home Missions, Mount Olive College

Session 2: 10:25–11:05 A.M.

Foreign Missions, Minister's Program, Retirement Homes,
Sunday School, Disaster Relief, Convention

**Return to College Hall for the Morning Worship Service
followed by a business session and lunch break.**

Session 3: 1:45–2:15 P.M.

Cragmont, Church Finance, FWB Press, Children's Home,
Home Missions, Mount Olive College

Session 4: 2:20–2:50 P.M.

Foreign Missions, Minister's Program, Retirement Homes,
Sunday School, Disaster Relief, Convention

(Continued on next page)

Session 5: 3:05–3:35 P.M.

Cragmont, Church Finance, FWB Press, Children's Home, Home Missions, Mount Olive College

Session 6: 3:45–4:15 P.M.

Foreign Missions, Minister's Program, Retirement Homes, Sunday School Disaster Relief, Convention

Thursday, May 19

Session 7: 9:30–10:00 A.M.

Cragmont, Church Finance, FWB Press, Children's Home, Home Missions, Mount Olive College

Session 8: 10:10–10:40 A.M.

Foreign Missions, Minister's Program, Retirement Homes, Sunday School, Disaster Relief, Convention

Return to College Hall for the Morning Worship Service, Main Business Session, and closing activities

Special note to session attendees: The number on your name tag represents the location where you will begin (*Ex. I have #4; I will begin at Rodgers Chapel*). You will remain in that location through two (2) consecutive workshops. You will then move to the next numerical location and remain for two (2) more workshops. On Thursday, you or your successor will begin where you finished on Wednesday (*Ex. My last workshop location was #6, Henderson, Room 113; I will begin today at location #1, College Hall Main Floor*). You should be able to attend 8 of the 12 available workshops. Two people from the same church can cover all of the workshops.

REAPING GOD'S HARVEST

by The Reverend Sam Weeks, the Cape Fear Representative OFWB Convention Executive Committee

An examination of our Original Free Will Baptist mission statement reveals that we have an excellent one and if fulfilled in its entirety we should be realizing growth as we proceed through this year's theme "Reaping God's Harvest." If a worker is to reap a bountiful harvest, one must sow good seeds in fertile ground and after the plants come up they must be watered, fertilized, and cultivated in order to multiply and be fruitful.

Over the past years our themes have been good ones but have we been faithful workers by utilizing the themes? After spending several hours reviewing the statistical tables in the back of our yearbooks for 2002 and 2003, there appears to have been little growth. I said *appears* because there is little doubt in my mind that our churches are not very careful in reporting their numbers and the data is flawed and not usable to any degree. So until our churches are more responsible in their reporting, the information contained in these tables are not very useful. But ultimately it's not the numbers on our church rolls that counts but rather the numbers that are on God's roll book that counts.

Since I couldn't use the data in the yearbook's statistical tables to support my thoughts on what is needed in our Original Free Will Baptist churches, I'll just have to give you my personal opinions and beliefs derived from observation and experiences. First, we need preachers who will proclaim the uncompromised Word of God. Those who are upright and reflect integrity and can withstand the attacks of Satan, those like Job of old. Those like the Apostle Paul who are led by the Holy Spirit. Those who are faithful in their prayer life and then practice what they preach and teach. Preachers who: (1) practice giving because they remember that our Lord Jesus Christ said that "it is more blessed to give than to receive." (2) practice that God will supply our needs according to His riches in glory. (3) promote unity, peace, and harmony among

our congregations. (4) are committed and faithful in their calling and consider the ministry a sacred calling, not just a profession. (5) But, most of all, our churches need preachers who demonstrate that they love God with all their heart, mind, body, and soul, and love others more than self.

Second, we need congregational members who are not only hearers of the Word of God, but doers also. Members who are hungry for God's Word, not those who come to church to be entertained. Entertainment is not a preacher's calling, but preaching the Word of God is. Members who are willing workers, committed, dedicated, and in full fellowship with one another. Those who are committed to Bible study, prayer, praising, and worshiping God.

Sometimes we preachers get discouraged when we hear about those mega churches that have thousands and tens of thousands on their church rolls. However, some consolation comes when we remember the Scripture verses found in Matthew 7:13–14, "Enter ye in the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

When we have churches that have preachers who preach and teachers who teach the Word of God and church members who are in harmony with God's Word, then God will bless us and use us for His glory. My plea and prayer is a simple one, that we ministers might be found walking in God's will and leading our congregations down the paths of righteousness for Jesus Christ's sake. What is needed in our Original Free Will Baptist churches today? A capsule answer is, *we need that old time religion* that is found and grounded in the Word of God. When that occurs, we will become laborers who are "Reaping God's Harvest."

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

NORTH CAROLINA WOMAN'S AUXILIARY CONVENTION

May 12, 2005

Hosted by Pee Dee Woman's Auxiliary Convention
Beaverdam Church, Clarendon, NC

Theme: "Establish the Work of Our Hands"

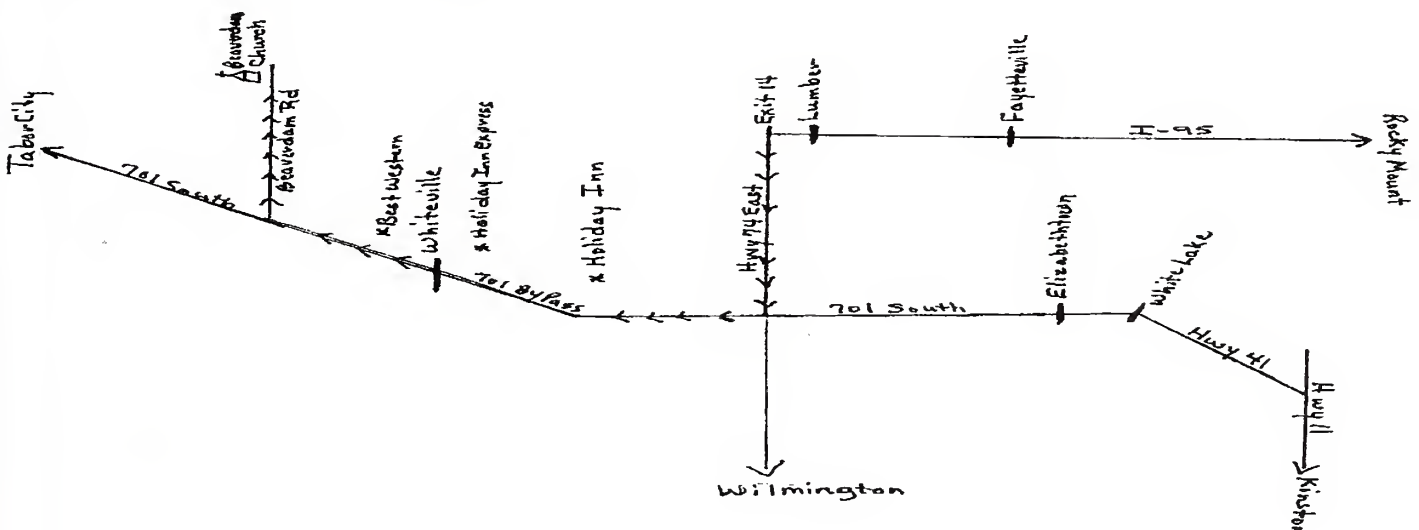
Speaker: The Rev. Jeff Daughtry, Director of Planned Giving, Mount Olive College

Scripture: "And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it" (Psalm 90:17).

8:30 Registration
Carolyn Jernigan, State Vice-President
Nadine Crocker, State Treasurer
9:15 Coffee and Doughnuts
Fellowship Hall (Everyone is invited.)
9:30 Call to Worship
The Honeycutt Family, Cape Fear Conference
Hymn: #375, "Have Thine Own Way"
Call to Order, Joan Little, State President
Devotion and Prayer, Becky Jo Sumner,
President, Albemarle Conference, State Secretary
Welcome, Edith McPherson, President,
Pee Dee Conference
Response, Jane Parker, President, Cape Fear
Conference
Announcements, Linda Gore, Youth Director
Beaverdam Auxiliary
President's Address, Joan Little, State President
Recognition Time
Business Session
Offering and Offertory Prayer, Sandy Thick,
Program Prayer Chair
Prayer, Western Conference
Life Membership Award, Committee

10:55 BREAK
11:05 Hymn: #359, "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms"
Denominational Ministries,
The Rev. Buddy Sasser, Director of Convention
Services of Original Free Will Baptists
Business Session, Joan Little, State President
Committee Reports
Other Business
Memorial Service, Vicki Wade,
State Missions Chair
12:15 Special Music, Abby Worley, Beaverdam Auxiliary
Introduction of Speaker, Dianne Riley, Director of
Alumni Relations, State Christian Education Chair
Message, The Rev. Jeff Daughtry, Director of Planned
Giving, Mount Olive College
Hymn, #361, "We'll Work Till Jesus Comes"
1:00 Benediction and Blessing, The Rev. Jackie Godwin,
Pastor, Beaverdam Church

Pianist: JoAnn Parrish, President, Eastern Conference
Song Leader: Jackie Flowers, State Benevolence Chair
Ushers: Pee Dee and Eastern Conferences



Motels: Best Western
Holiday Inn Express
Holiday Inn (old)

CAPE FEAR DISTRICT

Woman's Auxiliary Convention

Covenant Church

Hope Mills, NC

Saturday, April 9, 2005

Theme: "God Really Loves People"

Scripture: "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost" (Titus 3:5).

Registration: 9 A.M.

Convention begins at 9:30 A.M.

Message: The Rev. and Mrs. Willem van der Plas
Missionaries to Bulgaria

Fall meeting will be at Haymount Church, Fayetteville, NC, on Saturday, October 1, 2005. Remember to send in your nominees for Life Membership and Dola Dudley Awards for 2005 to President Jane Parker as soon as possible.

PEE DEE

Woman's Auxiliary Convention

White Oak Church

April 9, 2005, 10 A.M.

Theme: "Perhaps Today"

Scripture: Acts 1:1-14

Speaker: Jean Askins

Special music will be by White Oak Church

SEVENTY-EIGHTH AUXILIARY CONVENTION

May 12, 2005

Hosted by Pee Dee Woman's Auxiliary Convention

Beaverdam Church

Clarendon, NC

Theme: "Establish the Work of Our hands"

Speaker: "And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it" (Psalm 90:17).

Registration: 8:30 A.M.

Convention begins at 9:30 A.M.

LAYMAN'S LEAGUE

(This article has been reprinted from the Wednesday, June 2, 1982 issue of The Free Will Baptist.)

It was May 15, 1982; Rodgers Chapel, located in the midst of the Mount Olive College campus, was the scene: the event was the organizational meeting of the North Carolina State Convention of Original Free Will Baptists Layman's League. Men from five districts—the Albemarle, Cape Fear, Central, Eastern, and Western—assembled themselves with a united purpose, the forming of a state body which would be "for the development of the men of the church, especially for their stewardship" (the Rev. David Charles Hansley).

Special music for the occasion was sung by two excellent male ensembles: The Men's Chorus from Free Union Church, Central Conference, and the Male Chorus from Fremont Church, Eastern Conference.

The Rev. C. L. Patrick, pastor of Bethany Church, was the speaker of the hour. While speaking about the purpose of goals of such an organization, Mr. Patrick referred back to the time when Moses told Joshua to get his men of Ur together, for he (Moses) needed help. Those men of Ur were in fact laymen who would hold up their leader's hands; they would help provide needed strength.

Mr. Patrick called for the men of the Original Free Will

Baptist Church to be men of war, to hold up their preachers' hands, to hold up the hands of those who lead our denominational enterprises. A State Layman's League Convention would help men to do so, for it would serve to organize men for worship, stewardship purposes, and service. Such an organization would be a means by which laymen could exalt Christ through the agencies God has provided; and the local church serves as the point where such an endeavor should begin.

The Rev. David Charles Hansley, president of the North Carolina State Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, organized the Convention, putting together the organizational structures. Those elected as officers were: President—Henry Paul Beaman, Central Conference; Vice President—J. T. Wilson, Eastern Conference; Secretary—Floyd Newsome, Western Conference; Treasurer—Ray Clark, Central Conference; Member at Large—Chuck Whitford, Albemarle Conference.

The newly elected officers were then installed by Mr. Hansley who challenged them to spread the good news of Christ, and to walk daily with the Cross before them and the world behind them.

CAMP VANDEMERE

SECOND ANNUAL SPRING SING

Camp Vandemere will be hosting the Second Annual Spring Sing on Saturday, May 21, 2005. Come enjoy a day of singing, fellowship, and lots of food.

2005 Camp Schedule

April 8-9	Mt. Zion Women's Conference
May 21	Spring Open House Gospel Sing
June 3-4	State Layman's League Retreat
June 5-10	Summer Camp (Directors: The Rev. Tim and Gail Heath (252) 638-3808 and Wesley Taylor (252) 745-3171)
June 10-11	Watson Grove Church Retreat
June 12-17	Tarboro First Summer Camp
June 20-23	Women's Week of Camp (Director: Audrey Quinn (252) 638-6406)
June 24-26	Camp Reserved
June 26-July 1	Summer Camp (Director: Curtis and Cristy Ramsey (910) 324-1507)
July 1-3	Juniper Chapel Church Retreat
July 5-8	Open
July 10-15	Summer Camp (Director: Eva Mae Clark (252) 637-5346)
July 16	Camp Reserved
July 18-22	Summer Camp (Director: Berry Hodowanic (252) 249-0133)
July 25-29	Summer Camp (Director: Justin Mosley and Wesley Taylor (252) 745-3171)
Aug. 1-5	Summer Camp (Director: John Thompson (252) 633-0025)
Aug. 5-7	Peace Church Retreat
Aug. 8-12	Little Rock Church (The Rev. John Hill (252) 239-1958)
Aug. 12-13	White Oak Grove Church Retreat
Aug. 19-20	Singin' By The River
Aug. 26-27	Piney Grove Church Retreat
Sept. 9-10	Boy Scout Weekend

If any group or church would like more information concerning the camp, please contact the camp manager, Wesley Taylor. He can be reached at the camp by telephone: (252) 745-3171, cell phone: (252) 514-3222 or pager: (252) 634-1287. A presentation and slide program are available per request.

PEOPLE & EVENTS

POWHATAN YOUTH STAYS BUSY

On February 13, the youth of Powhatan presented goody-bags they had colored to all the senior citizens present in celebration of Valentine's Day. Thank you to the Kemery Ard Sunday School Class for providing the goodies for the bags.

Powhatan took part in the Cape Fear Youth competitions in various categories held on February 19. YFA member Crystal Guy received first place in Lesson Presentation. She talked about her work with the Raleigh Rescue Mission and how Jesus taught that we should care for our neighbors. AFC member Jordan Hardy wrote about Jesus for Christian Writing. YFA member Nikki Jones wrote a poem called "My Faith."

The Youth Convention's Mission trip for the summer of 2005 is to San Antonio, Texas. A soup and sandwich fundraiser held at Powhatan raised \$600 on Saturday, February 26, in support of the youth going from our church.

ORDINATION SERVICE HELD



Kelley (right) and his fiancée, Marci, posed for a photo while they exchanged hugs and handshakes with the many friends and family members in attendance.

Edward "Kelley" Smart was ordained to the gospel ministry on Sunday, February 27 at Reedy Branch Church in the Central Conference. Approximately 240 friends and family attended the ceremony that featured the singing of the youth group from Free Union Church of Walstonburg and a sermon by the Rev. Philip Wood of Reedy Branch. The Rev. C. H. Overman, chair of the Central Conference Ordaining Council, led in worship while other members presided over various parts such as an explanation of the ordination process and requirements and the signing of the Ministerial Code of Ethics. Almost twenty ordained ministers were present to participate in the laying on of hands portion of the service. Warren Averett, chair of the general board at Reedy Branch Church, presented Kelley with a Bible on behalf of the congregation while other members held a reception in his honor following the service.

A member of Reedy Branch Church, Kelley accepted the call to the ordained ministry in December of 2001 and was licensed by the church in the spring of 2002. Following the completion of an associate degree in information systems from Pitt Community College, Kelley enrolled as a religion major at Mount Olive College in the fall of 2002. He was graduated summa cum laude from Mount Olive in December of 2004. He has served as minister of education at Free Union Church since August of 2004. Following his marriage to Marci Rollins in July of 2005, he will join her at Campbell University Divinity School in August where they will both be pursuing master of divinity degrees. Kelley is the son of Larry and Mary Lee Smart and the grandson of S. A. and Carrie Dail Paramore.

AMUG AND MUFFIN MORNING

A Mug and Muffin Study Course was held at Smith's New Home Church on Saturday morning, February 19, 2005. It was hosted by the Woman's Auxiliary.

Mrs. Linda Herring from White Oak Grove Church presented a program on "Prayer." She used many selections from the Scriptures to discuss and answer the following questions:

1. Do I have a personal and secure relationship with Jesus?
2. Who am I in Jesus?
3. Why pray?
4. What would it take to improve my prayer life?
5. Do I have a particular time and place to pray?
6. Does Satan like for me to pray?

The twenty ladies present were reminded and impressed upon that our God is able. He is able to do what we ask, more than we ask, and more abundantly than all we ask or think, for He does not give His grace by calculated measure. As Christians, we are children of God, beloved, joint-heirs with Christ, with a responsibility to be Christ's Ambassadors. We are not our own, but have been bought with a price; therefore, we should watch and pray that we enter not into temptation but busily be about our Father's business. As the title suggests, muffins were served with each lady selecting a mug of her choice to take with her. Much was gleaned from our time together.

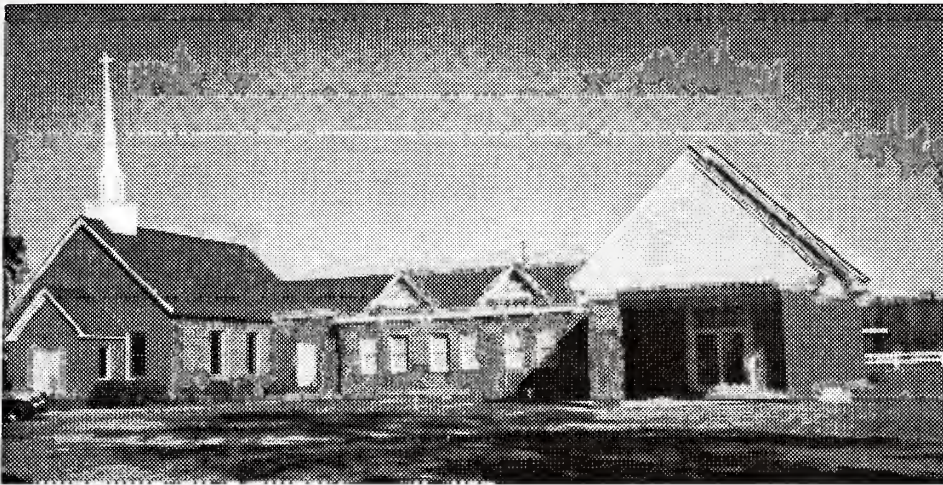
LITTLE CREEK CHURCH LAYMAN'S LEAGUE OFFER ASSISTANCE



Members of Little Creek Church Layman's League recently assisted a Little Creek Church member by purchasing materials and building a ramp at her home. Shown at work are Roy T. (Bud) Forrest, Johnny McLawhorn, Shea McLawhorn, Rodrick Moore, Donald Stokes, and Billy Vandiford. Ms. Mary M. Ginn was very appreciative of the hard work and thoughtfulness of the Little Creek Church Laymen's League for their assistance. Tommy Forrest also assisted as well as took pictures.

WALNUT CREEK CHURCH DEDICATES NEW BUILDINGS

Submitted by Betty Rollins



Walnut Creek Church, LaGrange, held our dedication services on Sunday, February 20 during our morning worship services which began at 10 A.M. With the completion of our new addition, we proudly cut the ribbon to our new facilities adding five new classrooms, new bathroom facilities, and an overflow area for our fellowship building. This addition connected our church and fellowship building, offering also a drive-through and accommodations for the handicapped.

Invitations were sent to our extended family, former members, and those making contributions to our building fund. We enjoyed worshiping with an overflowing congregation of approximately 160 people with many remaining for lunch and fellowship.

Special music was supplied by the Malpass family. Ribbon cutting was accomplished by the oldest members of our present congregation. Mrs. Margie Sutton, Mrs. Nelton

Whitfield, Mr. Emmitt Parrish, and Miss Ina Ruth Langston.

Walnut Creek Church was organized in 1859 and the present chapel was built in 1898. In the 1950s and 1960s many renovations were made to the church and the fellowship building was dedicated in 1972. A steeple was added in 1990. Current Sunday School enrollment consists of 77 members and Sunday morning worship services enjoy an average congregation of 75-80 worshipers. Though we are a small church group, we pray the Lord will bless us and use us to reach others for the glory of His Kingdom. We enjoy a wonderful fellowship each Lord's day as well as many other church activities. We're especially proud of our young people, the largest group we have ever had, some 24 folks.

We thank God for having blessed us thus far and pray He will be with us, inspiring us to serve Him, and be more committed to His commission.

GLOBAL OUTREACH CONFERENCE

Dramatic skits, special music, and inspiring testimonies from missionaries around the world highlighted the annual Global Outreach Conference at First Church of Wilson, February 4-6, 2005. This year's theme, "The Heartbeat of the Church is Missions," provided the focal point for the weekend's activities. Skits such as 'Missions, How Exciting!,' "I'll Go," and "I'm Ready Now" emphasized the call to foreign fields and the support of those who answer that call. A thought-provoking choral reading, "No, because I drove home the importance of answering God's call.

Featured denominational speakers included Harold Jones (Director of OFWB International), Chris Singleton, and Rachel Langley. In addition, members of First Church's missionary family were on hand to provide updates on their ministries. Carl Peklenk (Russia), Otto and Joahna Koring (Kazakhstan), Paul and Beth Bachmann (Brazil), Ed Hirshman (Africa), and Harold and Josephine Stevens (former missionaries in Africa) shared informative and often amazing reports of God's work.

The testimony of Andy and Nannette Palm, First Church youth pastor and his wife, touched the hearts of all in attendance. This young couple, sensing the urgency of the Lord's call during last year's Global Outreach Conference, shared their plans to become missionaries to Kazakhstan. God has blessed First Church with a wonderful opportunity to partner with the Palms as they take this step of faith.

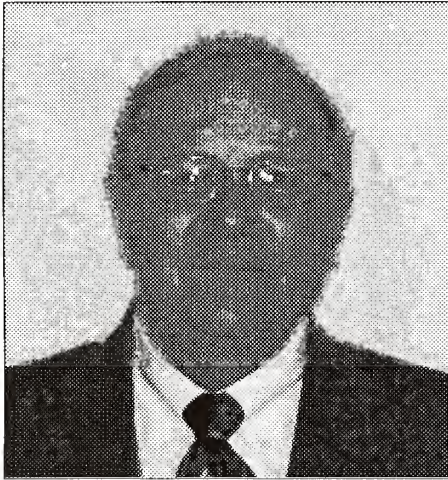
Throughout the weekend, faith-promise commitments were submitted and tallied. The closing session on Sunday night turned into a much-anticipated celebration as the conference goal of \$45,000 was surpassed. A final tally of more than \$53,000 was committed for the coming year to support the missionaries with whom First Church partners. The Lord continues to work in mighty ways through First Church and their missionary family!

Defining Religious Experiences of Original Free Will Baptists

THE LEPER COLONY IN THAILAND

by Pepper Worthington

Editor's Note: Dr. Pepper Worthington has recorded some of the defining experiences of Original Free Will Baptists, both men and women, as a column for issues of *The Free Will Baptist* as a record that can be included in Original Free Will Baptist Historical Collection at Mount Olive College.



The Rev. Charles Branch is associate pastor of Elm Grove church in Pitt County.

"I don't know too many people who haven't had some struggle with fighting the call of the Lord," admitted the Rev. Charles Branch. "In the 11th grade I knew the Lord was dealing with me. I wanted to be *absolutely sure* that God wanted me."

"In 1958, I was vulnerable to be drafted. Then we had the draft for the

military. I didn't want to go into the ministry as a way to avoid the draft. I went to Mount Olive College, but I had a rough experience. I had never been away from home. I lost my daddy. He went off to sell tobacco and died of a heart attack. He was 51 years old. That was a miserable year for me. I came home at the end of the year and joined the Air Force in 1962. I was overseas for three and a half years. I was sent to Thailand, and it was there that I had a defining religious experience," he confessed.

"I went to a leper colony in Thailand and I saw what leprosy can do to a body. Our military choir from the base chapel went to the leper colony. I can't tell you how seeing that leprosy of these helpless people affected me. Seeing the helplessness of people who had no arms, no legs, and body sores reminded me of *what sin can do to the person*. I didn't associate leprosy with sin, or disease with sin, but I did see the helplessness, the lack of strength we feel when we are in the grip of sin away from God. I saw in leprosy an image of

what sin could do to you. Through that experience in the leper colony in Thailand, I saw the horrors of sin and I believe God used that to help me see I could help by being a part of the ministry to fight sin," explained Branch.

"I couldn't get away from the calling of God. God would not leave me alone. I went into banking in 1972. I worked in the Bank of Winterville which later became First Citizens Bank. I retired in 2002. In 2002, Frankie Baggett told me the associate pastor of Elm Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church was leaving and he offered me that position. I took it," Branch noted.

"But I remember Thailand as a defining religious experience. I remember riding in a bus in Thailand and seeing how people were starving for Scripture. We in the military choir would offer portions of Scripture and the people would grab for it. That said to me that the people of Thailand were starving for something that they had not found. They had not found Christ.

"It was then that I knew I had to share Christ," he declared.

The "Oak Grove Boys"
will be in concert at Powhatan on
Saturday, April 16, at 7 P.M.
Come out and enjoy an evening of
worship through song and
Christian fellowship.



In the Spotlight

Elm Grove OFWB Church

Ayden, North Carolina
Central Conference



Dr. Pepper
Worthington
Circuit Writer

Rev. Michael
Warning
Circuit Artist

Editor's Note: The Free Will Baptist announces the beginning of a new column, *In the Spotlight*. The Rev. Michael Warning and Dr. Pepper Worthington are acting as circuit witnesses to our church life across the denomination. Rev. Warning's pen and ink sketch and Dr. Worthington's account of a Sunday service hope to awaken a new interest in what is going on in our churches across the denomination. Each issue of *The Free Will Baptist* in 2005 will feature a church visited by our circuit witnesses.

The stained-glass windows at Elm Grove Church sent rays of light into the sanctuary, giving the second Sunday in Lent a special glow. Music abounded that morning with the Elm Grove choir singing *Praise His Glorious Name* and *Sacrifice of Love*, and the Jones family singing, "Jesus' love can make you free. To the faint he giveth power, water to the desert, and golden day to the night."

V.I.P.S RECOGNIZED

The associate pastor, Charles Branch, recognized the V.I.P.s for the week—Rhonda and Nikki Clemmons. Mother and daughter later went to the front door to greet people as they left the service. Of the V.I.P. program, the Rev. Frankie Baggett declared, "I got the V.I.P. concept from Bishop Forbes. He adopted me as his godson. Five years ago we started recognizing members of the church each Sunday. We now send a card to our special V.I.P.s and tell them how much we appreciate them."

Prayer concerns were made, special hymns were sung, greetings were exchanged in exuberance, the second candle of Lent was extinguished, organist Chuck Branch played music with a crisp melodic dexterity, and the morning Scripture, 1 John 1:5-9, was read.

SERMON: LIVING AT A NEW ADDRESS

"I was born in Jacksonville and lived in the same place for 18 years," began Pastor Baggett. "I didn't know what it meant to move until I went to college. Even then I came home on weekends. After college I got married and moved again to seminary and moved again and moved again," he laughed.

"Moving is not an easy job," declared Baggett. "It's difficult as you pack boxes, move furniture, move precious possessions, sort and assemble. But the good thing about moving is that you get rid of things not good or not needed. You get rid of your old address and get a new address," he noted.

"Did you know that moving from darkness to light can be a lot like moving to a new address?" asked Baggett. "When we move into God's light, we become a part of a new address and we live and walk in God's light. We become a part of God's family and we are new children of God," he confessed. "We get rid of things. When we live in darkness, sin abounds. When we live in that old address of darkness, we dismiss guilt and shame that sin blames. We like to make excuses. We tell ourselves that we are not that bad. We blame our faults and mistakes on some-

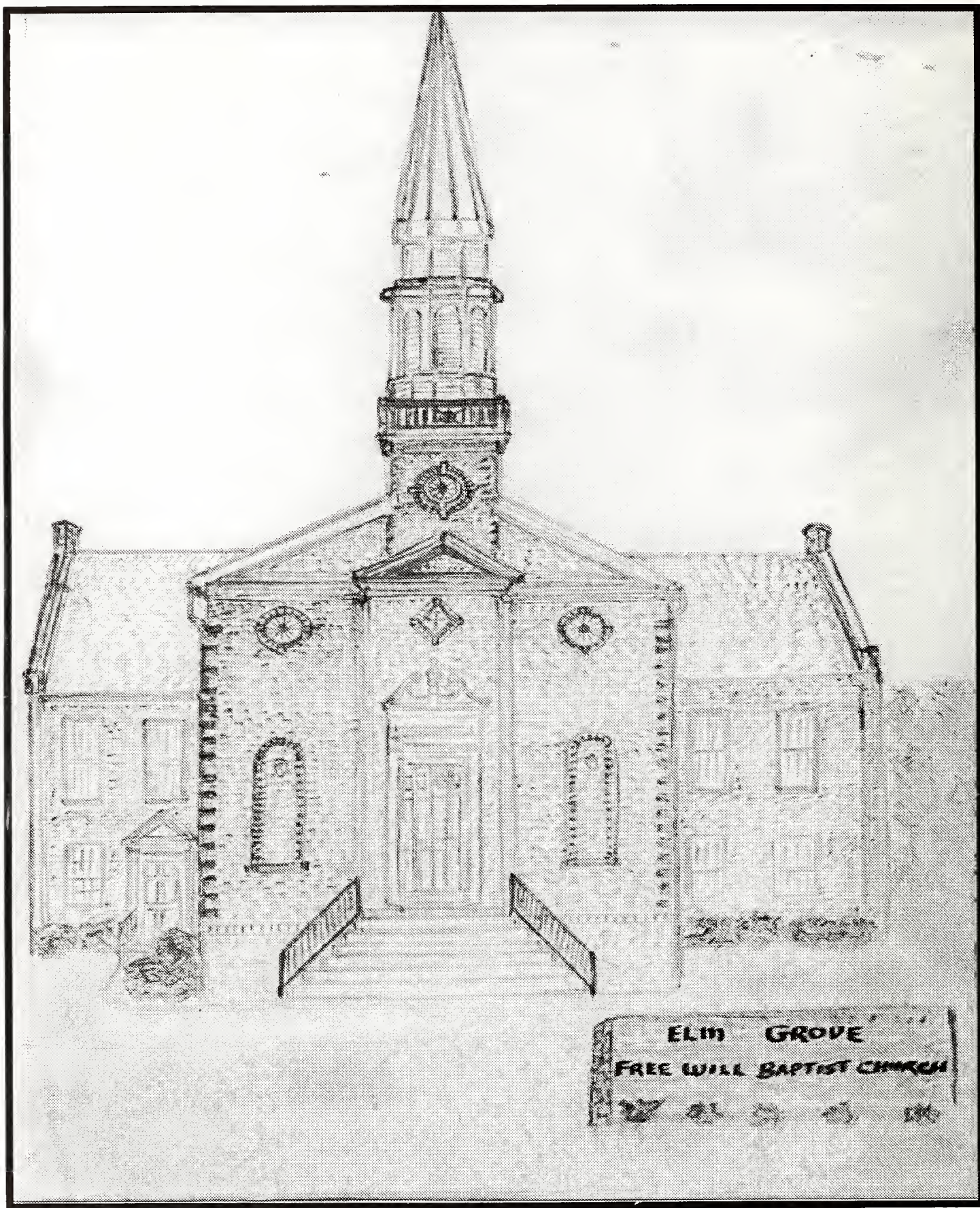
body else. Adam blamed Eve and Eve blamed the serpent. We also dismiss our own sin as not that bad as we compare ourselves to others," he declared.

"But there is only one we should compare ourselves to and that's the perfect example of Christ. We don't match up. We don't equal his standard. We are all like the King of Babylon. We are found wanting when we are weighed. But the Lamb of God takes away the sins of the world," Baggett noted.

"The story of Jesus is that He was sent out to proclaim the Good News. The power of the enemy sin is taken away when we receive Christ. Christ gives us help to resist the power of Satan. I wish there was something I could sprinkle on you to keep you from sinning, but there is nothing like that. Christians are not perfect. They are just forgiven. As long as we live in this world, we probably do wrong," he said.

"We need to move to a new address—that of the light of Christ," confessed Baggett. "But we must not stand still in the light. We must walk. Growing spiritually is hard. We still sin as we walk in our new address of God's

(Continued on next page)



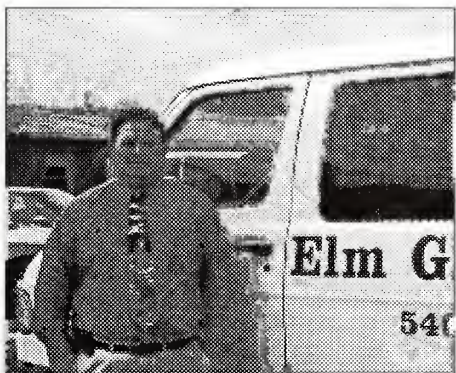
Elm Grove Original Free Will Baptist Church
Ayden, North Carolina
Central Conference

light, but we confess and seek a daily cleansing. Our new address is in Christ's light. He sets us free and oh, my, how different it is now!" declared Baggett.

"We have moved to a new address under Christ. We have new opportunities, new potentials, new light. We have a new place to exist," concluded Baggett.



The Rev. Frankie Baggett (right), pastor and the Rev. Charles Branch (left), associate pastor, are ready for the Sunday service at Elm Grove Church.



Steve Benson is an usher at Elm Grove Church and he drives the church van.



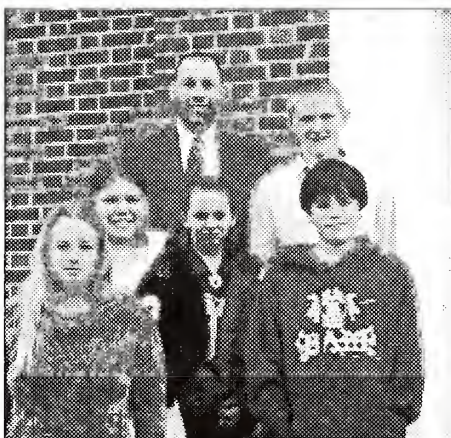
The Family Life Center of Elm Grove Church is an effort to build family and community fellowship.



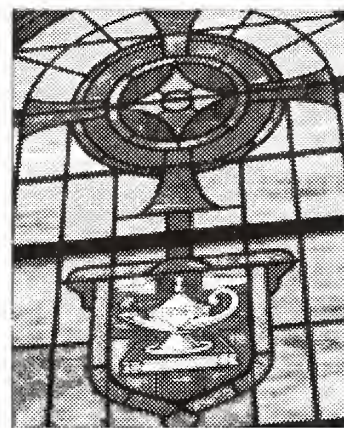
Deacons of Elm Grove Church. From left to right: Lon Pierce, Chuck Branch, Ed Chambers, Robbie Jones, Terry Manning, Truman Webber, Bill Jones, Jack Raines, Wesley Smith, and Tony Evans.



The baptismal painting of the Jordan River was done by Reed Moore.



Elm Grove Church young people with Nathan Pipkin. From left to right: Sierra Walker, Jackie Peterson, James Schultheis, Nathan Pipkin, Graham Rouse, Zack Bailey.



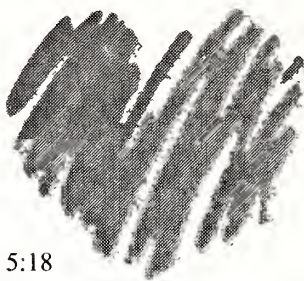
The lamp of learning stained-glass window at Elm Grove is in honor of the Rev. and Mrs. J. C. Moyer.



The Elm Grove Church choir practices for the Sunday services.

In every thing give thanks: for
this is the will of God in Christ
Jesus concerning you.

—1 Thessalonians 5:18



Thankful Heart Ministry through Song

*Angie Andrews * Kim House * Rhonda Wells*

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For more information, contact Rhonda Wells at (252) 641-1137

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The deadline for submissions to *The Free Will Baptist* is the 5th day of the month prior to publication. (Example: Items to be published in a January issue must be in no later than the 5th day of December.) You may submit items by any of the following methods:

- E-mail to <editor@fwbpress.com>,
- Fax to (252) 746-9248, Attn: Editor,
- Hand deliver, or
- Mail to: Editor, *The Free Will Baptist*
PO Box 159
Ayden, NC 28513.

***NO PHONE-IN OR HANDWRITTEN INFORMATION WILL BE
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Submissions for *Personal Information Changes* will be run
for 2 months only.

For it is written by the finger
of the Almighty in the
ever-lasting tablets of the
Universe that no nation can
endure and prosper into and
through whose life does not run
the golden thread of equal,
exact and universal Justice.

—David Josiah Brewer

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The advertising rates listed below are now in effect for churches, auxiliary organizations, and individuals. These charges will apply to any announcements, coming event listings, invitations, and registration forms. There is no charge for article submissions. If you have any questions, contact the editor at (800) 849-3927 ext. 227 or by e-mail at <editor@fwbpress.com>.

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The printing of ads is contingent on the availability of space. We reserve the right to condense space as necessary. You will be charged only for the actual size used.

CHURCHES & MINISTRY POSITIONS AVAILABLE

THE REVEREND CHARLES PETIT is available for the following services: pastoral, supply, revivals, or interim work. He may be reached at (919) 553-5741 or by mail at 2014 Penny Lane, Clayton, NC 27520

WESTSIDE CHURCH, Kinston, NC is seeking a full-time senior pastor. Please send resumés to: Brad Tilghman, Pulpit Committee Chairman, 2010 Gray-Tilghman Rd., Kinston, NC 28501, or contact him at (252) 522-5729.

REEDY BRANCH CHURCH, Pitt County, is seeking a full-time youth director. Any interested persons should send a resumé to: Reedy Branch Church, Youth Committee, 4457 Reedy Branch Rd., Winterville, NC 28590.

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Black Jack Church, Greenville, NC
Cabin Church, Beulaville, NC
Charity Mission/Church, Whiteville, NC
Christian Chapel Church, Pink Hill, NC
Core Creek Church, Cove City, NC
Covenant Church, Hope Mills, NC
Crab Point Church, Morehead City, NC
Croatan Church, New Bern, NC
Cypress Creek, Whiteville, NC
Daly's Chapel Church, Seven Springs, NC
Daniel's Chapel Woman's Aux., Wilson, NC
Davis Church, Davis, NC
Deep Run Church, Deep Run, NC
Edgewood Church, Macclesfield, NC
Elm Grove Church, Ayden, NC
Everett Chapel Church, Clayton, NC
First Church, Durham, NC
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First Church, Warsaw, NC
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First Church, Wilson, NC
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Free Union Church, Walstonburg, NC
Fremont Church, Fremont, NC
Friendly Chapel Church, Greensboro, NC
Friendship Church, Farmville, NC
Greater Bethlehem Church, Starke, FL
Grimsley Church, Snow Hill, NC
Gum Swamp Church, Greenville, NC

Harmony Church, Wilson, NC
Harrell's Chapel Church, Snow Hill, NC
Haymount Church, Fayetteville, NC
Hickory Grove Church, Robersonville, NC
Hillsberry Church, Clinton, NC
Holly Springs Woman's Aux., Newport, NC
Hopewell Church, Smithfield, NC
House of Prayer Church, Kernersville, NC
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Pleasant Hill Church, Grimesland, NC
Pleasant Hill Church, Pikeville, NC
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Rains Crossroads Church, Kenly, NC

Reedy Branch Church, Winterville, NC
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Rose of Sharon Church, Robersonville, NC
Russell Creek Church, Beaufort, NC
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Saint's Delight Church, New Bern, NC
Selma Church, Selma, NC
Shady Grove Church, Dunn, NC
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Silver Creek Church, Swansboro, NC
Smith's New Home Church, Deep Run, NC
Smyrna Church, Benson, NC
Sneads Ferry Church, Sneads Ferry, NC
Snow Hill Church, Mount Olive, NC
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Spring Hill Church, Goldsboro, NC
St. Mary's Church, Kenly, NC
St. Mary's Grove Church, Benson, NC
St. Paul Church, Newton Grove, NC
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Union Chapel Church, Plymouth, NC
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Verona Church, Jacksonville, NC
Walnut Creek Church, La Grange, NC
Wardens Grove Church, Lowland, NC
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White Hill Church, Aurora, NC
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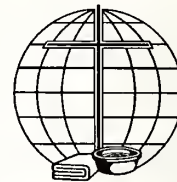
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THE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST MONTHLY PLANNER June 2005



CRAGMONT ASSEMBLY MONTH

Meeting dates and locations are subject to change. You are encouraged to call in advance to confirm meeting schedules.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3 Layman's League Spiritual Life Retreat at Camp Vandemere.	4 Layman's League Spiritual Life Retreat at Camp Vandemere.
5	6 Central Conference Layman's League Meeting at Aspen Grove Church, 6:30 P.M.—Supper, 7:30 P.M.—Business	7	8	9 Layman's League Executive Board Meeting—VFW Building, 7 P.M.	10	11
12	13	14 Flag Day	15	16	17	18
19 FATHER'S DAY	20	21 First Day of Summer	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

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POWER VERSE

Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee (Exodus 20:12).

FROM THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER

by Darren E. Davenport, Editor

Have you ever thought about what God, in all of His majesty and holiness, thinks of not just the world's, but Christianity's, current state of affairs? I mean really thought about it? What do you think He sees? I have wondered on many occasions and it's at the least very discouraging.

Turn on the television and watch the news at any given time. Listen to what they talk about—murder, rape, street wars, kids killing kids, men marrying men, and so much more—what must God be thinking? Continue to watch the television, looking at the commercials, and you'll see that vanity and sex, and "you've got to have it now," among other things, are what the advertisers use to "make the sale." Many of the popular movie stars use their fame and fortune to promote all the wrong stuff—like political correctness and protecting a woman's "right" to choose. What about a child's right to life—who's protecting that!? It's not just the secular world

out there that is the problem; the problem, more and more, is within the Christian world! Christianity may be, or is, the most materialistic of all religions. We all want what we want, when we want it, and we'll do whatever it takes to get it!

Sometimes it seems like we, as Christians, have a reputation of shooting our wounded. God, who sees all of this, undoubtedly, is disturbed! We as Christians—His children—are supposed to be a part of the solution, not a part of the problem. So, what do we need to do to start resolving the internal problems so we can be the beacon of light we're supposed to be to everyone else? The place to start is on our knees in fervent prayer. But don't just talk—listen for His righteousness! Then, let's really try to live as Christians. No more tearing down! Let's build each other up! Let's grow God's Kingdom—His Family. Let's work on giving God more beauty for His eyes to behold!



WOMEN IN MINISTRY

by C. H. Overman, Editor Emeritus

At various times in recent years, the matter of women in Christian ministry has been discussed, sometimes in general conversation among just two or three persons, or among ministers, etc. In most instances, it seems, the primary focus is only on the present day—is it the time to look at the possibility of ordaining women for the Gospel ministry? History reveals, however, that women have found their place as ministers of the Gospel, as well as fulfilling the office of deacon (deaconess). In some of our Original Free Will Baptist Churches, women are serving in this capacity. As far as this writer knows, there is only one Original Free Will Baptist ordained female Gospel minister and pastor.

In his message on the day of Pentecost, the Apostle Peter referred to a time when God would pour out His Spirit, "...upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy" (Acts 2:17-18). Peter was quoting the words of the Prophet Joel (see Joel 2:28-29). In the mind of many, these verses serve as the basis for the ordination of women as ministers of the Gospel, but this is not the only basis.

We have long preached and proclaimed that all God's children are on equal status and all have the same access to God, the Word of God, and the Holy Spirit as the teacher and guide. The early General Baptists, from whom we have our origin, stood firmly on the concept of the priesthood of all believers. We stand upon this same basic teaching of the Word. We recognize Jesus as our Great High Priest; therefore, we are

invited and urged to come boldly before the throne of grace. We do not need a priest or anyone to represent us before God. The early General Baptists believed that all offices of the church were open to any and all persons, regardless of gender, race, or social status. In 1609, John Smythe wrote a book entitled *Parallels, Censures, Observations*, in which he stated: "...the church hath powre to elect, approve, and ordaine her own Elders, also; to elect approve and ordaine her own Deacon both men and women" [Leon McBeth, *Women in Baptist Life*, (Nashville: Broadman Press, 1979): 29]. Dr. McBeth further stated: "In this country, the Freewill Baptists were the first Baptists to grant full ordination to women" (72).

New Testament teachings make no distinction between male and female in the matter of true discipleship and servanthood. Women often labored with men in the early church (see Acts 16:14-15 and Romans 16:1). The Great Commission to go into all the world proclaiming the Good News applies to all the church—all persons.

The role of women in the Christian movement cannot be denied, but it is sometimes underestimated. What about our own denomination regarding the ministry of women? Women have served as missionaries and have been the very foundation of some of the great Christian movements.

Sooner or later, an energetic, dedicated woman (young or older) is going to step forward before an Original Free Will Baptist congregation and declare her call into the ministry and, eventually, she will come before a conference board of ordination. And with our shortage of pastors, soon may be better than later.

Reflections

A Father's Day Tribute

by Denise Urban, daughter of Ivey Zadock Cobb

Father's Day seems to be an appropriate time to pay tribute to a very special man—my daddy. All too often, we don't express how we really feel about someone, so this writing is my attempt to tell how I feel. As I began to write, I thought "How could I describe daddy to someone who didn't know him?" So that is the perspective I am writing from.

Daddy can be described as a man with strong Christian values and a genuine love for his family and fellow man. He truly loves people and he demonstrates this love in his daily life. We have often joked that daddy won't let us gossip about anyone, because he only sees the good in people. What a better world this would be if we could all see people in the same light that he does.

Over the years, daddy has performed simple, unselfish acts of kindness for many of his friends and family. Although he has retired, he still plants some crops. In the summer, he loads his truck with his famous homegrown cantaloupes and watermelons and delivers them to the community. In the fall, he does the same with pumpkins. All he ever asks in return for his crops is that others enjoy them.

One of the first things that comes to mind when I think about daddy is his love for children. He has taken many children on their first fishing trip or frog hunting expedition or taught them to play baseball, another one of daddy's passions. When we were little, he spent hours with us—playing ball. He always said I was a great ball player until I learned to worry about my hair! He coached Little League for many years when my brothers were small and he has taught many children the basics of the game. Several men in the community have remarked that daddy was never too busy to teach them to love baseball as much as he did and they talk about how much that meant to them. As we grew older, he coaches the men's and ladies' church softball teams. He always said that coaching the ladies' team was the biggest challenge of his coaching career!

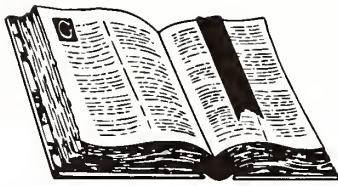
Daddy also gave many children their first job. Every summer he employed children to help harvest his tobacco and most parents in the community wanted their children to work for daddy because they knew they could trust him to treat their children well. Although working children had to be a headache at times, daddy never complained. In fact, he seemed to enjoy it.

We have a large family and daddy has many nieces and nephews who call him "Uncle Bud." However, he has become "Uncle Bud" to many people who are not related because of his talent for making people feel like family. All the children at church count on "Uncle Bud" providing them with chewing gum and he never disappoints! He keeps his shirt pocket packed with "Big Red" and "Juicy Fruit." He also is famous for making wooden rubber band guns, which he delivers to children, complete with rubber band ammunition (which is not always popular with the mothers!). He is forever buying toys and treats for children and hand delivering them to the delight of the children.

It's easy to look at daddy's life and see his love for God. Everything he does reflects his Christian love. He teaches Sunday School every Sunday, often speaks at prayer meeting, speaks at other churches for their prayer meetings, and fills in for the pastor when he is out of town. He is a true leader in the church he loves to serve. Others constantly call on him for advice regarding church matters. He visits the sick and shut-in and has a weekly Sunday School lesson with his uncle, who is bedridden. His Christian guidance has touched many lives over the years. He often can be found studying the Bible, trying to learn more. If I have a biblical question, I know where to turn. He has always taught us to be thankful for what we have and to always remember that all we have comes from God.

Although Daddy loves his children, he has an even more fervent love for his grandchildren. His influence is now reaching another generation that loves him as much if not more than the previous generation. He sometimes jokes that he loves to see his grandchildren come and he loves to see them go! Now that he is retired, most of his time is spent doting on his grandchildren. Each day, he carries my sister's children back and forth to school. Much of his time is spent showing them the basics of farming, fishing, and good values. Now that I have a child, I am so grateful that my son is able to learn some of life's valuable lessons from daddy.

I feel very fortunate to have a father who has showered me with love and always gives of himself very freely and this tribute is my way of saying thank you on this Father's Day.



You Know the Book— Do You Know Its History?

by Marci R. Rollins

It's the bestselling book of all history. Most people reading this article have several of them in their homes, maybe even in their car. Most churches have one snuggled neatly in between two hymnals on the back of every pew. Bookstores have sections dedicated just to them. We teach our children a song about it. What is it? The Bible.

But as popular as it may be and as often as we read it, how many of us know how it came to be in its current English form?

The original manuscripts of the books of the Bible, of which we only have copies, were written in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek. As people began speaking Latin instead of Greek, the Bible was first translated orally into Latin. The written version of the Latin Bible came later. Many people tried their hands at making Latin translations of the Bible, and it became very rare to find two Latin Bibles that were exactly alike.¹ There can be many reasons for this including mistakes made in making copies of the translations, a difference in the translators' knowledge about languages, and the difference in how the translators decided to translate.

When translating from one language to another, the original language will always have words that are difficult to translate accurately by one simple word in the other language. Therefore, some translators take a word-for-word approach and choose the word most closely similar to the word used in the original language, or they will choose a group of synonyms and each time the word is used in the original language, a variety of words are used in the translation. This approach tries to portray not the original words as much as the original meaning of the texts. The former approach is known as "formal equivalence." The latter approach is known as "thought-for-thought" or "dynamic equivalence." One approach is not more correct than the other, but we should be aware of the differences

when selecting a Bible for study or for devotional time.²

Since there was not a good Latin translation available, Jerome, a great Bible scholar in the fourth century, set out to produce what is known today as the Latin Vulgate. He tried to be as faithful as possible to the Hebrew and Greek texts; however, he started his work as a reviser of the other Latin Bibles and then became more of a translator, translating not word-for-word, but meaning-for-meaning.³ This Latin Vulgate was often used when making English translations.

For thousands of years, the common people in England did not have an English version of the Bible. They went to church and the priests conducted the entire services in Latin. Some people, especially church officials, preferred it this way because they were afraid of the common people being able to read and interpret the Bible for themselves. John Wycliffe (c. 1330–1384) wanted the common person to be able to read the Bible and in so doing, hoped that the church would return "to a more biblical kind of Christianity."⁴ His version was completed in 1380 and continued to be revised after his death. However, this English Bible was not based on the Hebrew and Greek texts, but on Jerome's Latin Vulgate.⁵

Although Wycliffe did the first work toward an English translation of the Bible, William Tyndale is known as the "Father of the English Bible." His English Bible differed greatly from that of Wycliffe's since it was based on the Hebrew and Greek texts, it was printed on a printing press and not hand copied, and it was translated into Modern English and not Middle English. People were so upset over Tyndale's translating the Bible into the language of the common people that copies of his translation were burned and he was executed for heresy.⁶ This was a very common attitude toward early translators and church reformers, and we should feel very fortunate that

translators continued to work on English translations of the Bible.

There were several other Bible translations done in English after Tyndale's execution and many were based on his translation. The next significant English Bible was called the Geneva Bible. This was the first Bible to be divided into verses and to use italics on English words that are not a true word-for-word translation of the original language. The Geneva Bible, produced by Protestants, contained Calvinistic margin notes that went against the Church of England and the king's divine right to rule. Parliament and Queen "Bloody" Mary hated it. However, this Bible was very popular among the people as is suggested by it being dubbed the "Bible of Shakespeare, the Bible of the Puritans, and the Bible of the Pilgrim Fathers."⁷

When King James I came to rule in England, he was interested in supporting the making of an English translation by university scholars. Although the Geneva Bible was a superior quality English Bible for that day, King James detested it because of its Calvinistic teachings.⁸ James I organized a committee of fifty or more scholars and gave them a list of rules for working on the translation that came to be known as the King James Version (KJV). They used several other English Bibles including Tyndale's, and they consulted the Hebrew and Greek manuscripts. No marginal notes appeared in this new version and the KJV was considered to be the best English translation of its time, following a word-for-word translation and often using one English word to translate several different Greek or Hebrew words.⁹ However, typographical errors were as numerous as one in every ten pages, resulting in several revisions needing to be made of the KJV.

(Continued on next page)

Since the early days of translating the Bible into English, numerous discoveries have been made of older copies of the books of the Bible. (You may have heard of the Dead Sea Scrolls which were discovered purely by accident in 1947!) Secular papyri found by archaeologists in Egypt also gave a better understanding of many Greek New Testament words, while Semitic literature shed new light on meanings of Hebrew words. The papyri found in Egypt were written in everyday Greek. Scholars noticed that this was the same form of Greek found in the New Testament manuscripts.¹⁰

All of these findings spurred even more English translations, starting with the Revised Standard Version in 1952. Different groups sponsored each

translation with some following a word-for-word translation and others aiming to portray the thought behind the original languages. Paraphrases of the Bible such as *The Living Bible* and *The Message* have also been printed in order to make the Bible easier to read to children and youth.

In short, the history of how the Bible came to be translated into English is often “forgotten” or totally unknown. Many people labored for many hours so we could read the Bible in our own language instead of having someone else read it to us in a language we do not even know! How grateful we should be to these people—who often risked their lives—so we could read the Bible for ourselves. Imagine how the church might be different today without those brave people!

¹ David Ewert, *A General Introduction to the Bible*, (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1983), 175–176.

² Kevin Perrotta, *Your One Stop Guide to the Bible*, (Ann Arbor, MI: Servant Publications, 2000), 121–122.

³ Ewert, 176–179.

⁴ Ibid., 184.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid., 187–189.

⁷ Ibid., 193–195.

⁸ Ibid., 198.

⁹ Bruce M. Metzger, *The Bible in Translation: Ancient and English Versions*, (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2001), 70–77.

¹⁰ Ewert, 213.

IT'S ABOUT QUALITY—NOT QUANTITY

by Rita Jones, Guest Writer

As a past district youth leader, I have heard church youth leaders say, “We want to get our kids involved but we don’t know where to start.” Some of them say, “We don’t have enough youth to compare to some of these really active churches.” I would like to answer those comments with the first-hand experience from my own church.

In 1998, Powhatan attended the May Youth Convention at Mount Olive College for the first time in many years. We had become more active by going to monthly youth rallies and really wanted to learn more about the whole program. Wanda Benson, the Powhatan youth leader in 1997, talked with Angela Warren and Martha Parsons to get details of how to be more active. We had a small group but even a small group can make big contributions if it is put in the Lord’s hands.

After seeing the Bible Bowl demonstration at the Convention, Mrs. Benson said, “We can do that.” She challenged the kids to put teams together and give it a try. AFCs Nikki Jones (captain), Crystal Guy, Nicole Lee, Clay Coats, and Will Allen made up a team that eventually took the State Championship the next May. YFAs Chris Bagley, Roberta Widhalm, Cynthia Narron,

and Dani Allen defeated Robert’s Grove in the Cape Fear District and went on to take second place at the state level. By 2000, the small YFA team grew to 9 members that went on to take the State YFA title. Chris Bagley was captain, and AFC captain Nikki Jones had moved up from AFCs as had Crystal Guy. Several new faces joined the team including Daniel Bagley (Chris’s brother) and Jeremy Jones (Nikki’s brother).

That was the beginning of a core group of dedicated young people who

counselor for the Rev. Frankie Baggett again this summer. Some have been a part of and worked on every youth mission trip—New York, Baltimore/D.C., Atlanta, and Nashville.

The youth group at Powhatan has never been really large, but the leaders have continued to work hard to keep the youth we have involved. Had someone asked me in 1998 to provide three state officers in the next six years, I would have thought it was impossible. But with God, all things are possible. As more and more churches seem



would continue to represent Powhatan and work together to support each other through the trials of life. Now, they are each involved in our church as ushers, choir members, children’s church workers, and members of our church’s Girl Scout’s troop. Many of them have held offices at the District and State levels of the Youth Convention. Some of them have been to Cragmont each summer for the past six or seven years. Roberta will be an AFC

to be looking to “do their own thing,” I am glad to look at our young “princes and princesses” and see that they want to continue to work and serve. I know that as they all part and go their different ways, there will be changes along the way, but I hope each one continues to follow the paths they have begun. Thank you to them for their special involvement over the last five years in the denominational work and to their leaders who still continue to work with our future princes and princesses. Remember—Don’t let having a small number keep you from being involved—it is the quality, not the quantity, that is important in the end.



JUNE IS CRAGMONT MONTH PRAISE REPORT FOR 2005

- Our second annual *Cragmont Spring Swing Golf Tournament* at Carolina Pines Golf and Country Club, April 19, saw 72 golfers enjoy a beautiful day and raise over \$3,000 for Cragmont!

- Our Second Partnership In Ministry endeavor: *Deacon/Pastor Enrichment Seminar* April 21-23 had 94 participate in a truly special weekend experience!

- *Morning Star*, the Woman's Auxiliary weekend conference, had an attendance of 138 women experience a spirit-filled weekend of fellowship and sharing with Willem and Lydia van der Plas.

- "*Bed, Breakfast and Blessings*," our new summer offering is booking to capacity! July 4-9, 2005, will see many families come to Cragmont for summer vacation.

- *Summer Camping* is at near record levels of registration. Two of our weeks are already full, two are near capacity, and the remaining two are filling fast.

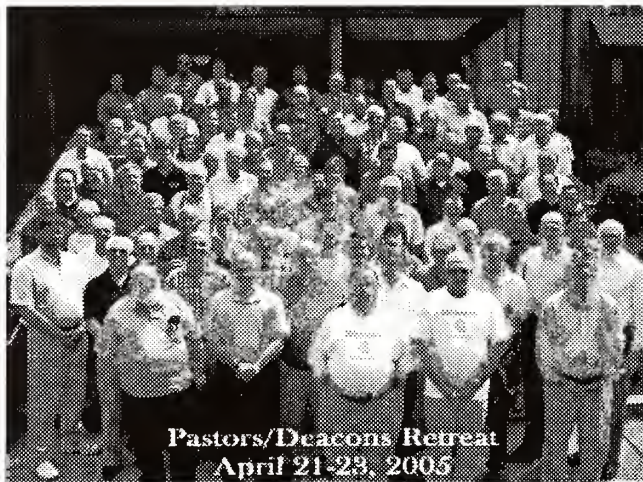
- *Construction* is complete on our covered walkway between the main building and the dining hall. And the roof over the dining hall deck has also been completed!

- *Building Plans* for our next New Heights project, a two story 40 bed lodge, have been approved by our board and construction will begin as funds become available.

Thank You for a great start to 2005!



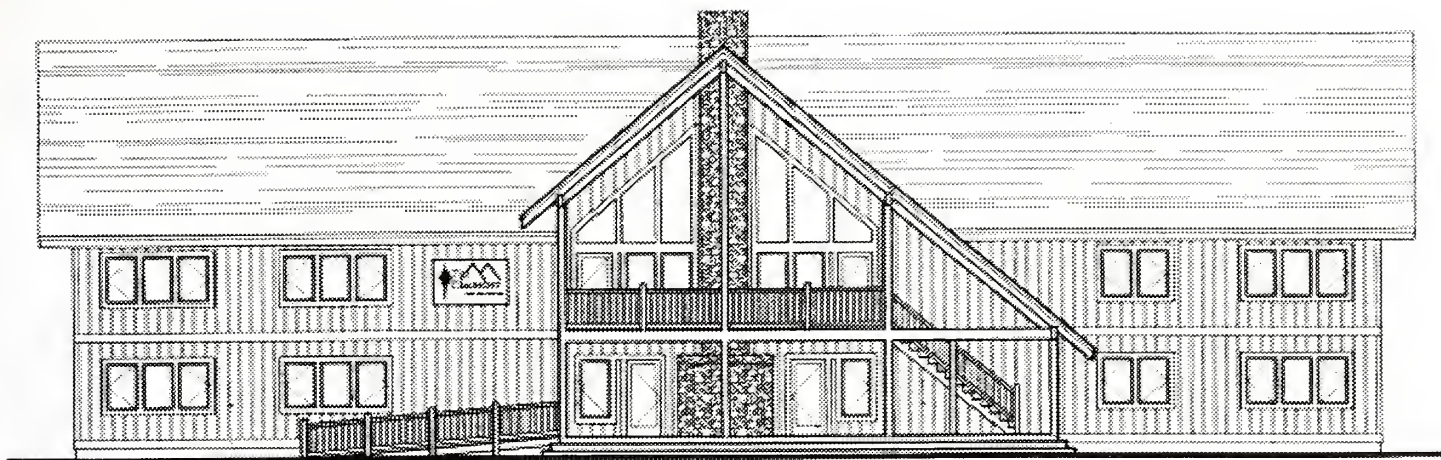
Second Annual Cragmont Spring Swing Golf Tournament



Pastors/Deacons Retreat



Construction is complete on the covered walkway between the main building and the dining hall.



Proposed New Lodge

WHAT'S IMPORTANT TO NOTE THIS MONTH— YOUR OPPORTUNITIES!

First: To pray for this ministry and the opportunities you have to support and partner to help it continue to grow.

Second: Involve your church or ministry group in our Annual Cook-off. This is every church's opportunity to have a tremendous impact! EVERY OFWB church knows about having dinners or selling plates to raise money. We're VERY good at this. Most of our Sunday School rooms, fellowship halls, and padded pews are evidence of such success. And this success strategy is what Cragmont needs from each church. We ask for a day—just one dinner or sale—from your church. Your menu, your prices—you know your people and community. Commit this one dinner to Cragmont and send us the proceeds. The key is participation! Each church doing just one dinner can mean great things for Cragmont. The year 2004 saw twenty churches raise \$16,500! Make the commitment! We need ONE day, ONE dinner, from MANY churches. Just think of the possibilities.

Third: Become involved in the *New Heights Campaign*. Current pledges exceed \$335,000. Additional pledges will allow us to progress toward construction! Become a part of the vision that is New Heights. Become a pledge partner to help expand this ministry that serves over 1,000 young people and 63 churches and retreats annually.

Fourth: Receive a special offering for Cragmont this month. Cragmont has grown into a year-round ministry available to individuals and groups of all ages as a direct result of faithful prayer and faithful financial support from our churches and individuals. We thank you for making our growth possible. Consider including and/or increasing your budgeted support for this ministry. We will grow as the desires and hearts of our people and churches allow.

WHAT'S AHEAD THIS FALL

- August 4–5th: 26th annual Cragmont Golf Tournament at Happy Valley Golf and Country Club in Wilson.
- August 5–6th: Tractor/Truck Pull at Four Oaks. Sponsored by Cragmont and the Bethel OFWB Men's Fellowship. Proceeds go to the New Heights Campaign.

For further information on any of the programs and upcoming events concerning Cragmont contact Bryant Hines, Planning and Marketing Director, at (252) 637-7171 or e-mail at <bryanthines5@aol.com>. Bryant is also available to visit your church or group. He is available for Sunday or Wednesday services as well as any group meeting night.

**2
Day**

TRACTOR/TRUCK PULL PULLING FOR KIDS

**Sponsored By Cragmont Assembly, Inc. &
Bethel OFWB Men's Fellowship
"Christian Camping In The Blue Ridge Mountains"**

Friday, August 5

Mini Pull

7 P.M.

Hot Rod & Stock

Lawn Mowers



**Pulled by:
Neuse Mini**

Tractor Pulling Assoc.

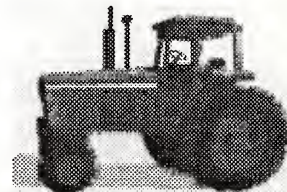
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Saturday, August 6

12:00 P.M.

Antique Tractors

**Farm (Smokers) Super,
Turbo, V-8 Modified**



**Pulled by:
Carolina**

Antique Tractor Pulling

KIDDIE PULL BOTH DAYS (Ages 4-8)

ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARD A NEW CAMPER'S LODGE

Four Oaks Pulling Track

659 Tettersville Road, Four Oaks, NC

**(Take I-95 to Exit 87 Four Oaks to Hockaday Rd., 2 miles to Tettersville Rd.
Turn right 1 mile, Track on Left, Shade Trees for Everyone At the Track)**

ADULT ADMISSION \$7 • CHILDREN (4-12) \$4

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FOR INFO. CALL: JIM BEST (919) 796-2775 or

BRYANT HINES (252) 637-7171 or (252) 670-8424



RACHEL'S JOURNEY: LAST WEEKEND IN ROSITA



Hey Everyone!

I hope you have had a great week! The third team left today and the fourth team arrived. I will be joining them tomorrow in Piedras Negras. I came "home" to Rosita yesterday and have been relaxing a little. The whole family was here yesterday, so I played with the kids and talked to all of my "brothers" and "sisters."

Today we went to the river to play and swim! Always looking for a little more adventure, I followed Ismael and Raqueli down the river from the rest of the group. We found a broken tree trunk that served as a nice diving board. A couple came by and told us that there was a better spot a little further down and the water was deeper. They were also joking about there being snakes in the water. Now some of you may not know this, but I'm terrified of snakes. I'm okay if I can see them, and they are far away, but not knowing where they are is not okay! Obviously, I didn't have my glasses on, and we were swimming which made it hard to see anyway (even though the water was clear). Ismael was in front of me and kept telling me that there really weren't any snakes in the river. Finally, we reached this huge tree that was leaning over the water, so Ismael climbed up and it was my job to swim around and try to touch the bottom. I was still a little nervous about the snakes, so I kept asking him every 3 seconds what was underneath me. We decided that it was deep enough to dive

into even from up high. I climbed up and dove in, and we found a spot on the bank that gave us a few more places to jump from. After playing there for about an hour (with no snakes in sight), we ate lunch and came home.

I started thinking about how much that experience parallels my relationship with God. Many times I'm just enjoying life, and the Devil comes along and says be careful of this, watch out for that, he really just wants to steal my joy. Then the awesome God we serve reassures me, but I'm still a little unsure even though He is above all and can see clearly from where He is sitting (and He's never lead me astray before). He sees the full picture even when all I can see is just in front of my face. Finally, I dive back into what He has for me, and I receive His peace and joy and all that He has in store for me, and I'm left wondering why I doubted Him in the first place. I don't know where you are right now, but I encourage you to dive into His loving mercy, so that you can experience the abundant life He has planned for you!

I'll be spending tonight and tomorrow morning saying good-bye (until hopefully next summer) to my family and friends here in Rosita. Please keep this coming week in your prayers that God will be glorified in all that we do and that God will bring the team together to be a unified body serving Him with all that we have! I'll be home a week from today (Saturday, July 24), so pray for safe travel. I look forward to seeing you and sharing with you in person. Take care and God bless!

Love in Christ, Rachel

CARE FOR SICK PEOPLE

by Tezdjan N. Murtazova



*Tezdjan N.
Murtazova*

While we, Tezdjan and Willem, were talking together about how good the Lord is to us and the fact that Gudi has no cancer, a young man knocked at our office door. He looked desperate and said, "I am very ashamed to disturb you and to ask you for financial help. Please consider to give me some money to support my brother's surgery; he is only 34 years old and has cancer in his lungs, probably caused by the vapors of paint, and metastases in his brain. Even with a very small amount I will be happy, because I try to help him to get surgery. Please, let your heart speak and whatever you decide to contribute is good to me." He showed the medical documents, which informed me (Tezdjan) that his brother was paralyzed by a malignant brain tumor and that he needs brain surgery as soon as possible. The surgery would cost 1,800.00 leva, which is about 1,250.00 in US dollars. He received about \$150 from relatives, friends, and his brother's boss. He said, "My brother's health insurance was not paid by his boss and now we even consider selling the furniture of our house to be able to help him the best we can." Sometimes life seems to be so merciless.

Then I talked to Willem. He proposed, "The man cannot be helped with a gift, because after the brain surgery, he needs more medical attention and treatment. We have some money left from the surgery of Gudi, we can go to pay his health insurance. This is the best way we can help them." I told him,

(Continued on next page)

"That is 600 leva equal to about \$415.00 in US dollars, a lot of money. Then Willem answered, "Does a person's life cost \$415?" The next day, February 19, we paid 680.00 leva for the health insurance and on the same day Beisin got his surgery. Two days later, his mother and his brother, Bexty, came in the late evening to tell us that Beisin had been walking a little. They brought us a small box with bonbons. They were overwhelmed with happiness and thankfulness. I told these happy people that the Lord and His Church have been providing this money, especially for sick people who are in great need of support. Again, it has been through our Mission Director who will send us this special contribution to share with a man of 35 years to give him at least some hope for the future. They have been wondering how it can be that people who don't even know them provide help and heard that the Lord cares for them and loves them, that He provides through His faithful children who are united in the church of Jesus Christ. We promised these Moslem people to pray for them to our Almighty God. In the coming weekend, Rushdy and I hope to visit Beisin and his family in the home of their mother where they live now.

UPDATE FROM LODY FORTUNADO (Bible School Student at Palawan Bible College, Philippines)

On May 28, 2004, I entered the Provincial Hospital in Palawan for surgery to remove a goiter. Through the protection and guidance of our Almighty God, the operation appeared to be a success. A few days later, however, there was a lot of swelling in my neck. After a few months there was a growth as big as the one that had been removed. The doctor suggested I have another operation. This was done on November 12, 2004. After two days in the hospital, I went back to Palawan Bible College. In spite of the pain caused by the operation, I continued my studies.

The Bible says in Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." I thank the Board of Foreign Missions for the financial support for this operation. I express my thanks also to all the brethren in North Carolina for helping meet my financial needs, but above all to the Lord who makes all things possible. His name be exalted.



Lody Fortunado

SHALOM FELLOWSHIP FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH LUNCH FELLOWSHIP

by Fidel B. Presto

We praise God for what He has done in Shalom Fellowship Free Will Baptist Church at Barangay San Jose, Puerto Princesa City, Philippines.

Every last Sunday of the month we have a lunch fellowship. I found out that during our lunch fellowship the adults, youth, and children have a good relationship with each other in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. They are trying hard to study the Word of God. During these meetings I give them an assignment for their Bible Quiz from the book of Acts. In our last meeting, I gave them two chapters beginning with chapter one and two. We also play Bible games such as Bible hunting, Bible block, Bible action, Bible drill, memory verses, music quiz, Bible step forward and backward, and verse relay.

The purpose of our lunch fellowship is to build their good relationship to each other, to gain a greater knowledge of God's Word, to teach them their responsibility in the church, to move forward in their spiritual life in Christ Jesus, and to actuate their love of God in order to show that they are made in His image. Praise the Lord!



Group picture taken inside the church.

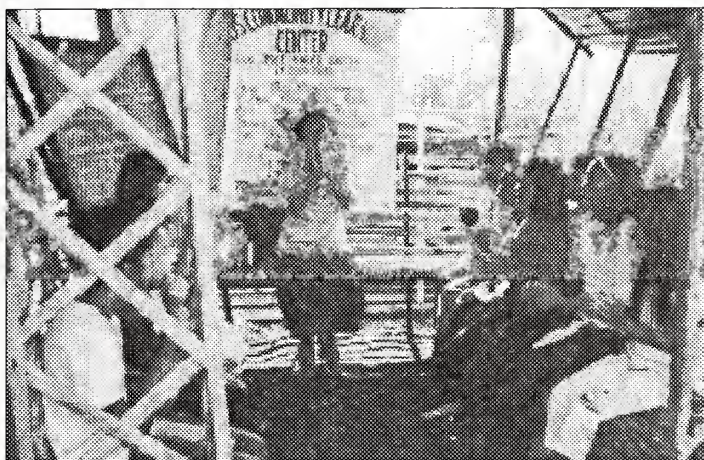
(More pictures on next page)



Children performing a special number.



Children that attend Sunday School.



Older children attend Sunday School.



Adults and young people attending Sunday School.



Adults and young people attending Sunday School.



Adults and young people attending Sunday School.

**We praise God for what He has done in
Shalom Fellowship Free Will Baptist
Church at Barangay San Jose, Puerto
Princesa City, Philippines.**

EMERGING

by Mary Dudley



I sit alone in my tiny room
Contemplating my place in time,
It's dark, unrewarding, cold and confined
Because of the limits nature has defined.

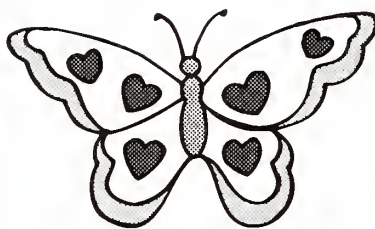


Oh my! What's that I feel so distinctly?
I think, I wonder, I ponder!
My goodness! My room is getting so small
I can hardly move without hurting.

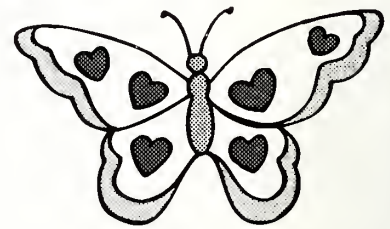
Aha! What's that I see on my wall?
I believe it's the light that I need
To help me leave this tiny space
And enter the world with my deeds.

I want to get out and enjoy the light,
But how can I break this shell?
I said to myself, "Just open your heart and mind to new thoughts...
I know that you will do well."

I did just that, threw fear aside
Broke the shell and I emerged.
This world outside is such a scary place,
I hope I won't be submerged.



I open my arms so carefully
As a mother would beckon a child,
To experience life with wonder and awe
And reflect what the meanings could be.



I soar for awhile 'til I come to a spot
Where life encourages one to just BE.
And now my growth process continues to expand
As I become the being I am!

Are we doing our part to help the growth of the church in general and the Original Free Will Baptist Church in particular? Growth is a process and not an event. Our Christian life is a process of growth in learning and living. The Sunday School program is designed to do just that. We will be either a "builder" in the church or a "crusher." We **MUST** grow individually before we can grow collectively. Let us join hands and *build our lives on the solid rock of Jesus Christ* and thereby continue the process of growth through teaching and learning for all which will in turn grow our churches.



WELCOME TO ALPHA OMEGA MISSION

The congregation of Alpha Omega Hispanic Mission/Church in Ayden, NC, introduced its first service on April 10, 2005 at 6:30 P.M. with 20 in attendance. They are meeting in Elm Grove Church's fellowship building.

Worship services are scheduled every Sunday at 6:30 P.M. with Bible Study at 5 P.M. Dr. A. Graham Lane, Ethnic Coordinator for Home Missions and Evangelism, shared with the congregation on "Being an OFWB Hispanic Mission/Church." Mr. Jose Perez has been appointed by the Board of Home Missions and Evangelism as Coordinator and will work under the supervision of Dr. A. Graham Lane.

Mr. Perez and his family are committed to this work. Mr. Perez has been a Christian for many years, and since coming to American seven years ago, has had a desire to grow a church. We are pleased that Mr. Perez decided to follow his call to become a minister, especially with the Original Free Will Baptists. It is exciting to see God at work through His people. Mr. Benny Cox, a member of the Elm Grove OFWB Church, has agreed to work with the youth as well as to serve as an advisor to Dr. Lane and Mr. Perez.

We are grateful to the Elm Grove OFWB Church for their support both in prayer and for their generosity in providing facilities for this mission/church. This endeavor is truly "Touching Lives for a Lifetime."



Congregation



Benny Cox and Youth



*A. Graham Lane, José Perez,
and Benny Cox.*



José Perez and Family





CHANGE FOR CHILDREN 2005 THANK YOU

We kicked off our "Change For Children Campaign" last month with great expectations. Our previous campaigns have been successful, and we know that this year's campaign will also be successful. We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the many dedicated churches that participated in this campaign. Your prayers and support give us the strength and determination to continue forward in a ministry that was just a vision 85 years ago. Together we are planting seeds, and helping provide brighter futures.

The Junior Class/AFC from Soundside Church have taken on the "Change For Children Campaign" as a year-long project. We want to say thank you for a job well done!



Left to right: Jessy Williams, Sammy Brickhouse, Brad Brickhouse, Leah Armstrong, and Quentin Reynolds.

NEEDS LIST

SUMMER TRIP

SPONSOR (\$3,000)

Laundry and Cleaning Supplies

Twin Sheet Sets

Twin Comforters

Dinette Table and (4) chairs

Ice Machine (\$2,500)

Patio size Gas Grill

**Come join us as we celebrate
our 59th Annual
Alumni Homecoming,
Sunday, July 10, 2005
at Memorial Chapel.**

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

Anybody can be a father, but it takes a special man to be a dad. Please take time to tell your dad how much you love and appreciate him. If your dad has passed away, take a moment to reflect on the memories that you shared during his life.

So often, children come to the Children's Home and they don't have fond memories from their childhood. Usually, they are victims of abuse. These children have been deprived of the special relationships that bond a Christian man and his children.

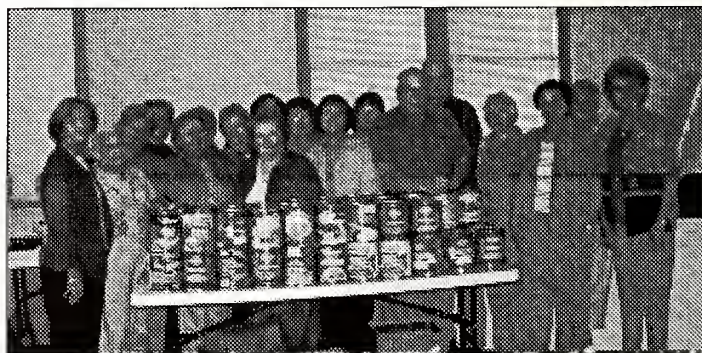
Please remember the special times you have shared with your parents, and be much in prayer for the children who come our way and have never known that joy.

*Happy Father's Day from the Staff and Children
of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home.*

TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME

On July 22, 2005, Spring Branch Church will sponsor the second annual Free Will Baptist Children's Home Cleaning Supplies and Paper Drive. Discount tickets to the Carolina Mudcats game will be available. For more information, please contact Bill Doane of Spring Branch Church, Walstonburg, NC at (252) 753-3717. He is coordinating this event.

CAMPUS VISITS



Members and Friends of Marlboro Woman's Auxiliary.

On May 3, members of Marlboro Church, Farmville, NC, came to visit our campus. They had hosted a canned food drive for the Home, and they came to deliver them. Thank you so much for remembering the Children's Home.



2005 CONVENTION OF ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS

The 2005 Convention of Original Free Will Baptists was filled with inspiration and information for all who attended. We hope that your church will reap benefits from the sessions with ministry directors as well as from the times of worship and fellowship. There are so many people to thank for the assistance provided: Andrea Cox, the Headquarters office staff, Doug Skinner, Karen Bowen, Sandy Thick, Blended Fellowship, the Executive Committee, Mount Olive College, and of course, our host church, Whaley's Chapel, that provided ushers, guides, and other support services during the Convention. To the Reverends Bobby Taylor, Wayne Sheffield, Ray Wells, and De Eakes, and to Mr. Ronnie Taylor, a very special thank you for the direction you brought us from the Word of God. Thanks also to all of our ministers, delegates, and visitors.

Now, we must begin using the information we have received as we

focus on the challenges that have been made. The best way to process this information is to encourage our pastors and congregational leaders to invite Ministry Directors to your church. The purpose of ministry is to provide service to others. One of the desires of each of the ten ministries of our denomination, as well as the Convention itself, is to help your church become more proficient in your service to the surrounding community. By including these ministries in your yearly worship schedule and in your annual budget, you will be providing additional ministry opportunities for your church.

The main objective presented during the Convention workshop sessions was that of growth. Each church was called upon to grow in number by two percent per year for the next five years. If your church is averaging 100 people on Sunday morning, your goal is to increase that number, through conversions to Christ, to 102

by May 2006 and to 110 by May 2010. *The next goal* is for every church in the Original Free Will Baptist Denomination to participate in conference, association, and convention sessions. This can be done either by letter or delegation. *A third goal* is for all churches, unions, associations, and conferences to provide some measure of support to all ten ministries, plus the Convention office.

We will discuss these and other goals and objectives in future articles. Our primary goal, for now, is to encourage every pastor, every church, and every church member to re-examine their church covenant and re-evaluate their commitment to the practices, principles, and programs of our denomination and its ministries. The Convention Services office at the Headquarters stands ready to assist you and your church in any facet of ministry. Please give us a call today and let us know how we may be your servant.

PULPIT AIDS—*Building On This Rock—The Name of Christ*

In an effort to keep our churches focused on our yearly theme, we will offer monthly presentation outlines to use at your discretion. No credit is necessary and you may build on or add to these outlines based upon your intent.

JESUS—The Servant

(Isaiah 49:1–7)

Buddy Sasser

Director of Convention Services

Have you ever felt as though your work for God has gone unnoticed and unheeded? Do you find yourself physically, mentally, and spiritually drained with nothing to show for your efforts? Well, lift up your head...you are not alone. Jesus Christ felt the same way, and it's recorded long before His Incarnation and His Crucifixion.

I. The Servant Jesus—His Call (v. 1)

II. The Servant Jesus—His Commission (vv. 2–3)

- a. His preparation
- b. His power
- c. His protection

III. The Servant Jesus—His Complaint (v. 4)

- a. Revealing His coming humanity
- b. The question of accountability

IV. The Servant Jesus—His Conquest (vv. 5–6)

a. Restoring Israel

b. Providing salvation for the Gentiles

V. The Servant Jesus—His Crowning (v. 7)

- a. He will be the object of worship
- b. He is the choice of God.

(Continued on next page)

The desired direction of your service to God and mankind was known to Him long before you were created. Jesus said to His disciples, "Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain..." (John 15:16). Our call to servanthood has a crown as its ultimate goal. Listen! Follow! Receive! Rejoice!

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

by The Reverend Tim Heath

As parents we place great importance and joy in naming our children. Many times this leads to months of conversation, flipping through books, or researching ancestors, and meaning of names and their heritage. We name our children after family members, close friends, or famous people. After Michael Jordan came along, a rise of little boys and girls named Jordan began to appear. Then a surge of little girls named Mariah began to invade novelty plates, after the person and voice of Mariah Carey began to top all the music charts. The naming of our children often reflects anything from a family heritage to general interest or fads at the time. In either case there is a lot that goes into a name.

We, as Original Free Will Baptists, can relate to the importance of a name. Some years ago we were known as Original Free Will Baptists of North Carolina and we attended our annual "State Convention" in September. However, someone had a vision that we could be more than just a North Carolina denomination, we could surpass our state line into the nation, and even the world. Our name has changed to reflect that vision, "The Convention of Original Free Will Baptists" has moved to the month of May. Thereby, we are sending a message that we are prepared to extend past our humble beings, to be faithful to the calling of God through Jesus Christ to go unto all the world to reach the downtrodden and the lost. Not only are we nationwide but worldwide. Foreign Missions is now Original Free Will Baptist *International*. What's in a name? A name is who and what we want people to perceive us to be.

On a more personal note, what

about the time we were born again? Lives that had been lived in sin, rejecting God, without hope, now changed by the grace of God. Our name has been changed, we are now called Christian. We have been transformed from the corruptible nature of man to the incorruptible nature of the Spirit. In Acts, the followers of Christ conducted their lives on a daily basis so much like Christ that they were given the name Christians. The given nickname, Christian, settled in and has been carried throughout all generations. What is in a name? When it comes to our eternal destination a name means everything. It is in the name of Jesus that those who confess their sins are forgiven.

Psalm 23 has been used to comfort many of us over the years and justly so, but it also serves as a practical reminder of the names of God and how He is able to work in our lives. In verse one we see the one God who meets our needs, Jehovah-Rohi, *I shall not want*, as well as "THE" good shepherd, Jehovah-Shame. Verse two shows God as Jehovah-Jireh, our provider, *He maketh me to lie down in green pastures*. Next we see, in verse five, God as Jehovah-Rapha, our healer: *thou anointest my head with oil*. God is also our victor, Jehovah-Nissi. In verses four and five, *...I walk through the valley of the shadow of death. I will fear no evil: ...Thou preparest a table for me in the presence of mine enemies*. Only our Jehovah-Nissi can give that kind of victory. Back in verse three, God is our "sanctifier," Jehovah-M'kaddesh, where He *restoreth my soul*. Jehovah-Shalome, "the Lord of Peace" is our God in verses two and four when in the midst of our enemies *he leadeth me beside the still waters...thy rod and thy*

staff they comfort me. Unworthy as we are, God is Jehovah-Tsidkenu, "our righteousness." In verse three God *leadeth me in the paths of righteousness*. It is all in the name.

Our theme "Building on the Rock" directs us to the person of Jesus. In Ephesians 2, Jesus is the stone that the builders rejected that is now the cornerstone. In 1 Corinthians 3:11,13, Jesus is the only foundation upon which we are able to build lives that will stand through God's refining fire. Today as Original Free Will Baptists we are continuing to build on that foundation. In the name of Jesus and by His command we are to go: to preach, teach, baptize, make disciples, and sow the seeds so that through Jesus we can reap the harvest. We do all of this in the name of Jesus. It is all in the name. In the name of Jesus there is: salvation, healing, forgiveness, mercy, grace, and stability.

Paul and Peter both wrote of the truth that Jesus has become the "chief cornerstone" of the church. We are held together being built upon Jesus as our Cornerstone. Both Paul and Peter were martyred because of their faith in Christ, because they were anchored in Christ Jesus. Each one of us today is building our walls, rooms, and great structures layered on the one true foundation, where one sows, the other waters, but it is God who gives the increase. We must know that Paul, Peter, John or any of our forerunners were not the foundation; it is, and always will be, Jesus. There is no power that can defeat the church that is built on Jesus Christ, which is an immovable, unshakable Cornerstone, Jesus. What a name, a name above all names, a name to which every knee shall bow and confess Him, Lord. Yes, it is all in a name.



MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE HISTORICAL GROUNDBREAKING

Mount Olive College officials, architects, and others broke ground on May 4, for three new buildings: an academic complex, a communications center, and a wellness center.

Dr. J. William Byrd, president of the College, opened the ceremony noting that this is the largest construction project in the history of the institution.

"We are building three structures," he explained. "They will be handsome and they will change the appearance of this campus. But we are not gathered to celebrate the building of buildings. We are gathered to celebrate the building of the future."

Byrd said these new buildings will open the door for continued growth and expand the College's capacity to serve others.

The first buildings to be completed will be the academic complex, named in honor of W. Burkette and Rose M. Raper, for fifty years of dedicated service to the College, and the Communications Center, which should both be completed by July 1, 2006. The Wellness Center is expected to near completion by September 2006.

The new academic complex will double the current classroom space and house the School of Business, Agribusiness Center, and Department of Science and Mathematics. It will also house a 500-seat regional conference center.

The Communications Center will enable the College's five locations to function as a single institution with the help of delivery systems that include video conferencing, video streaming, and wireless networks. It will also provide a larger space to house special collections of books including the Free Will Baptist Historical Collection.

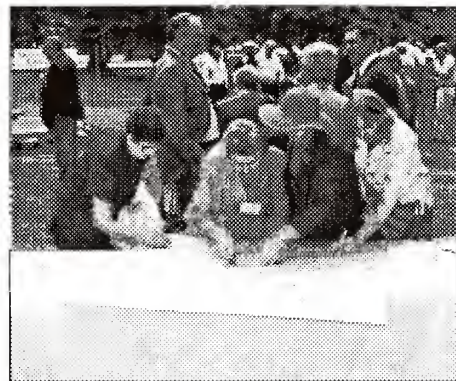
The Wellness Center will house student health services, an aerobic/cardio area, weight room, dressing rooms, and an intramural sports center.



Trojan mascot; Anthony Howerton, president of R. L. Casey, Inc.; Sonny Whitehurst, president of DKWA Architects; Darrell Horne, chairman of the Mount Olive College Board of Trustees; J. William Byrd, president of Mount Olive College; Emmett Stroud, president of the Student Government Association; George Kornegay, president of the Mount Olive College Foundation Board; the Rev. Fred Baker, president of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists; John Cooper, state director of USDA; and Lois Britt, co-chair of the Capital Campaign Steering Committee.

The Rev. Fred Baker, president of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, told the group gathered that they were witnessing a very special day. "Over 50 years ago, Free Will Baptists, by faith, made a strong commitment to this calling, Christian higher education... Today we break ground for three new buildings, signifying to all in attendance and to those that will see these buildings rise... our reaffirmation of our commitment to that calling of Christian higher education."

Darrell Horne, chairman of the College's board of trustees, recalled that 40 years ago when he was a student at Mount Olive College, there was only one classroom building, the Henderson Building. "As we gather here today and you see what has happened in the last 40 years and what we're about to take on, it really is exciting and probably the most important thing to happen at this college for years to come."



Betty Pelt, Rose M. Raper, Dorothy Whitley, and Cynthia Dyer sign a piece of plywood that will be used in the construction of one of the new buildings.

Lois Britt, co-chair of the New Century Campaign steering committee, reminded the group that the \$23 million was an ambitious goal, but one that was reached. "But Mount Olive College was founded and has moved forward by ambitious goals," Britt said.

(Continued on next page)



Members of the Mount Olive College Board of Trustees stand with shovels after the groundbreaking ceremony.

"We found support coming through gifts of time, energy, ideas, encouragement, and yes, even dollars.

"These buildings will enrich the area, the state, and even the nation," she added.

George Kornegay, president of the Mount Olive College Foundation, told the group what a tremendous effort this has been and thanked all of those involved for helping make a dream become a reality.

John Cooper, state director of the United States Department of Agriculture, noted that a lot of work goes into a project such as this. "It's going to be a great time as we move forward in this venture."

There was a sense of excitement all around the proposed building site during the groundbreaking as those gathered enjoyed refreshments and socializing, and there was some dreaming going on as well as those involved talked about the soon-to-come buildings.

Britt remarked, "May this dream be the foundation for future dreams as the foundation was laid for us to create this one.

"We shall be eternally grateful for every ounce of support each of you has given."

CENTRAL CONFERENCE YOUTH BRING CLEANING SUPPLIES



Central District Youth brought cleaning supplies during a visit to the College campus.

MARLBORO YOUTH VISIT MOC



Chip Spiron, Golf Coach at Mount Olive College, is seen here talking with the youth group from Marlboro Church about admission requirements and campus activities during their recent visit to campus. The group had lunch in the College cafeteria, visited the Campus Store, watched the Lady Trojans play in a softball game against Queens and they watched the men's soccer team play an exhibition game against ECU.

THERE IS STILL TIME TO ENROLL!

The Office of Enrollment at Mount Olive College invites all high school seniors, college transfers, and working adults to look over MOC's educational opportunities. Visit our web site at <www.moc.edu> for more information. Email: <admissions@moc.edu> or call (919) 658-2502 or (800) 653-0854.

Research Triangle Park

Contact: Dr. Robin Spaid at <rspaid@moc.edu> or call (919) 941-2970 or (888) 258-5188.

New Bern

Contact: Vaughn Purnell at <vpurnell@moc.edu> or call (252) 633-4464 or (800) 868-8479.

Wilmington

Contact: Alan Coheley at <acohaley@moc.edu> or call (910) 256-0255 or (800) 300-7478.

Mount Olive

Contact: Allison Sullivan at <asullivan@moc.edu> or call (919) 658-2502 or (800) 653-0854.

Goldsboro (Seymour Johnson Air Force Base)

Contact: Opey Jeanes at <ojeanes@moc.edu> or call (919) 735-5052 or (919) 734-8585.

FREE WILL BAPTIST STUDENTS RECOGNIZED AT AWARDS DAY



Jonathan Best of Pinetown received the 2005 Citation for Outstanding Student of the Year in History. He attends Free Union Church (Albemarle).



Nathaniel Grubbs of Elizabeth City received the 2005 Citation for Outstanding Student of the Year in Science, the Henderson Science Club Award for Best Scientific Research by a senior, and the Henderson Science Club Award for Contributions to the Department of Science and Mathematics. He is a member of Plymouth Church in Plymouth, NC.



Rhonda Houston of Deep Run, NC received the 2005 Alumni Student of the Year Award. Her mother, Elizabeth Houston, is an alumna from the class of 1973. Rhonda attends Deep Run Church.



Kelley Smart of Winterville received the W. Burkette Raper Ministerial Student Award. He is the Minister of Education at Free Union Church (Central). He is a member of Reedy Branch Church in Winterville.



Samantha Benson of Newport received the Faculty Award for Student Excellence and the Louise Edgerton Preparatory Senior Teacher Excellence Award. She attends Silver Creek Church in Carteret County.



James R. Clark of New Bern received the Free Will Baptist Ministerial Association Award. He is currently serving as interim pastor at Crab Point Church in Morehead City and is a member of Carolina Pines Church in New Bern.



Tyler Barwick of Mount Olive received the 2005 Citation for Outstanding Student of the Year in Art. She attends Northeast Church.



Travis John Caviness of Dunn received the 2005 Freshman of the Year Award. He is a member of Smyrna in Meadow, NC.



Hillary Williams of Goldsboro received the Braswell Award. She attends Goldsboro First Church.

(Continued on next page)



Dawn Faircloth of Dunn received the Distinguished Service Award for leadership in service activities in the Department of Recreation/Leisure Studies. She is a member of Robert's Grove Church.



Dianne B. Riley, Director of Alumni Relations, received the Advisor of the Year Award. She attends Mount Olive Church (Cape Fear).

DR. RAPER RETIRED



Even though Dr. Raper is retired he is still working (just without the tie!).



Eleven Free Will Baptist churches and 250 people enjoyed the Mount Olive College vs. Kinston Indians ballgame this spring.

MOC SPORTS END WITH A GOOD SEASON AND AWARDS BANQUET

As the saying goes, the Mount Olive spring sports teams won a few, lost a few and some got rained out during 2005.

Men's Tennis Team

Had its most successful season in school history, not only winning its first-ever Carolinas-Virginia Athletics Conference (CVAC) regular season championship, but posting a 10-0 record in the conference to become the first Trojan athletics team in any sport to go unbeaten in CVAC play.

Women's Tennis Team

Finished in the top four in the CVAC regular season standings and reached the semifinals of the CVAC Tournament.

Baseball Team

The 2005 season had its share of highlights, including a no-hitter by junior Justin Staatz, only the second no-hitter in Mount Olive baseball history and the first ever in a CVAC game.

Softball Team

The Trojans improved their win total for the second consecutive year. Among the highlights of the season was an 8-0 win over arch-rival Barton in the first round of the CVAC Tournament.

Men's Golf Team

Enjoyed three top five finishes during the spring and tied for seventh at the CVAC Championship. Senior Eric Royster earned All-CVAC honorable mention and earned a bid to compete in the Atlantic/Southeast Super Regional of the 2005 NCAA Division II Men's Golf Championship. Freshman Mikael Moberg, who had a second-place finish to his credit

during the spring, also earned a bid to the Super Regional.

Women's Golf Team

Continued to make history in its third year of existence. Junior Lindsey Snyder, who earned All-CVAC honors for the second consecutive year, became the first Trojan women's golfer to win a tournament championship, taking first place at the St. Andrews Invitational. Sophomore Kate Somek shot a school record 77 in the final round of the 2005 CVAC Championship and was named to the All-Tournament Team. During the final round, she sunk an eagle from 135 yards out on the par-4 15th hole.

Men's Volleyball Team

Completed its first season as a varsity program. The Trojans played an extremely competitive schedule, which included matches against a number of nationally-ranked Division I opponents.

Athletics Awards Banquet

The sports teams ended the season with the annual Spring Athletics Awards Banquet at which time the head coaches of the 14 athletics programs honored their student athletes for their accomplishments during the past year. A total of 44 student athletes won team awards ranging from "Most Valuable Player" to "Most Improved." In addition, student-athletes with the 10 highest cumulative grade point averages were recognized. The top awards of the night recognized the overall student-athlete and scholar athlete of the year.

TRUE WORSHIP—NECESSARY

by J. L. Lovender, Steens, Mississippi

(This article is re-printed from The Free Will Baptist, Wednesday, April 22, 1936 edition.)

It is really encouraging to know that we have some good writers in the cause of God's Kingdom. It seems to me that we are living in an age in which we can hear much gossip about religion. Again, it seems that we have a very large percent of religious people in our country. But I want to say that not all people that are religious are Christians, so let us see if they are really true Christians.

In Matthew's Gospel 7:21, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." Now let us see if we can find that class of people today. Again, we read in Matthew 15:8-9, "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me; But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." Now, friends, we notice that the Lord speaks of a "vain worship" and we will now define the word vain. The dictionary says it is "void, worthless, useless, empty." So we can see what a "vain worship" is like. In this day and age we have a class of people that have very much "Smock Modesty" about them. Oh, how they can be a church member and flirt with the world. Jesus said they make clean the outside of the platter, but inward they were as ravenous wolves. We notice that He spoke of their hearts being far from Him.

Now, friends, we want to say that everybody has some kind of a treasure, so let us see what Jesus said about that treasure. We read in St. Luke's Gospel 12:34, "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Then, brethren, since our hearts are where our treasure is let us select our treasure in heaven "where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth" (Luke 12:33). Let us have a living faith, not one that we have just dreamed about. Again, Jesus said that they were teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.

Did you know that the time is here which the old

Apostle Paul spoke of in 2 Timothy 4:3? It reads like this, "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears." The time is here when some people won't stand for reproof, but they are busy selecting those preachers that will preach their commandments. Yes, some preachers are even afraid to give God's Word full control; they are afraid that they might be turned off as pastor, or their financial income might cease. Yes, but Paul said, "...Woe is...me, if I preach not the gospel," (1 Corinthians 9:16) and I want to say that the Bible has plenty of "woes" in it for the man who does not measure up to its standards.

The commandments of men have great bearing on some people. I wonder how many of our preachers are guilty of letting some of his brethren influence him toward not stressing the vital, the important things that our people are to be reproved for. My honest appeal is for the preacher to be true to God if the whole world forsake him. Let us have that pure, and undefiled religion; the kind that God

will accept, and one we will be proud of when we come before the Judgment bar. May the Lord give us more upright and honest men and women.

This is what the world is dying for, and we are led to note the case of the Samaritan woman as related in St. John's Gospel 4:21-24, when Jesus said unto her, "...Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." Then, seeing that we "must" worship God in spirit, let us give more time to our daily devotions.



WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

CAPE FEAR WOMAN'S AUXILIARY CONVENTION

Saturday, April 9, 2005

Covenant Church, Hope Mills, NC

Submitted by Carolyn Jernigan, Program/Prayer Chairman

The theme for the Spring Convention was "God Really Loves People." Our Scripture was Titus 3:5, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Ghost." In the absence of president, Jane Parker, Wanda Johnson, vice-president of the Cape Fear Auxiliary District, extended a warm welcome to all and prayed our opening prayer. Marin Bandell gave our devotion. It was on how God is sometimes "irked" by us. We put what we want to do ahead of what God wants us to do, and He is irked by us. Martha Parsons made announcements pertaining to the agenda for the day. Ms. Johnson opened the business session with appointing of the Finance, Resolution, and Credentials Committees. Minutes of the last convention and executive sessions were read by Betty Strickland, Secretary of the Cape Fear Auxiliary Convention. Delegates, visitors, districts, and state officers were recognized. The roll call of churches was done and 82 people were present. The Dola Dudley Award was present-



Mrs. Frances Phillips (left), recipient of the Dola Dudley Award, is pictured with Willem and Lydia van der Plas.

ed to Mrs. Frances Phillips. Her daughter, Kaye Ward, shared some interesting facts about her. She was presented with a pewter plate with the date and Dola Dudley Award engraved on it.

The following Denominational reports were given: Darren Davenport—Free Will Baptist Press; Sandy Thick—Retirement Homes; Carolyn Jernigan—Mount Olive College and the Rev. Fred Baker—the other ministries. He also informed us of the new format of the

State Convention in May 2005.

A Memorial Service was held for those who had lost members since April 2004. There were eight auxiliaries that lost good, faithful members. A moment of silence was observed by all present.

Two Cape Fear Talent winners sang for the congregation. An installation service by Mrs. Brookie Honeycutt was held for officers that will be serving the next two years. The Rev. Willem van der Plas delivered the morning message. The Rev. Ken Dabbs, pastor of Covenant Church, thanked each person for coming and prayed for safety of travel and blessing upon the food prepared. Ginger Hill led the music and Phyllis McLamb played the piano.

The Fall Convention will be Saturday, October 1, 2005, at Haymount Church, Fayetteville, NC. Registration will begin at 9 A.M. and Convention at 9:30 A.M. Everyone was reminded to send names of nominees for the Life Membership and Dola Dudley Awards for 2006 to Jane Parker as soon as possible.

WESTERN DISTRICT AUXILIARY LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARD



Pictured left to right: Wanda Johnson, daughter of recipient; Anne Liles, representing Marsh Swamp Woman's Auxiliary; Pearl Reardon Johnson Hunt, Western District Auxiliary Life Membership recipient; and Patsy Vick, representing Western District Auxiliary.

During the Western District Woman's Auxiliary meeting held at Marsh Swamp Church on April 6, 2005, Mrs. Pearl Reardon Johnson Hunt was awarded with a Life Membership Award.

"Miss" Pearl, as she is lovingly called, has spent her life in devotion to her family, the OFWB Church and the OFWB Denominational Ministries. She has been involved in auxiliary work for over 70 years.

(Continued on next page)

Born in Johnston County on October 24, 1914, she joined, as a teenager, the Hopewell Ladies' Aid Society, as it was called during those days, soon after it was founded in 1930.

In 1933, she married the Rev. Milton L. Johnson. As a minister's wife she was actively involved in all areas of church work and in many auxiliaries through the years including, Casey's Chapel and Mount Olive in the Cape Fear Conference, Little Rock and Marsh Swamp in the Western Conference, and Holly Springs in the Eastern Conference.

During the late 1950s and into 1960, she worked with the Mount Olive College Food Service. From August of 1960 to August of 1969, she worked daily beside her husband who was superintendent of the OFWB Children's Home in Middlesex.

After Mr. Johnson's death in 1969, she continued working as a faithful ser-

vant to young adults, first at Louisburg College and then at St. Mary's College. During this time she became a member of Palmer Memorial Auxiliary near Garner. After 20 years of working for Louisburg and St. Mary's Colleges, she retired in December of 1990.

She returned to Marsh Swamp Church and the auxiliary in 1991 after her marriage to Mr. James B. Hunt Sr., brought her back to the Rock Ridge community in Wilson County.

In 2001, she was awarded a life membership by the Marsh Swamp Woman's Auxiliary. After the death of Mr. Hunt in 2003, she moved to Garner to be near her family, and now attends Palmer Memorial Church.

She is the mother of two daughters, Glenda Johnson Moody who died in 2003 and Wanda Johnson of Garner. She has four grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren.

Through her many years of auxiliary work she has served on every committee imaginable, taught monthly programs on a regular basis, taught study courses, and worked with the youth. Many times she has served as a delegate to the district and state auxiliary conventions. She has held local, district and state auxiliary offices, and was elected president of the Western District Auxiliary in 1956.

In Proverbs we find these words: "...a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised. Giver her fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates" (31:30-31). "Miss" Pearl's life has been a true picture of devotion to God by serving others. With "service" being one of the three auxiliary purposes the committee deemed it very appropriate to award her with a life membership, an honor of which she is very deserving.

MRS. PEGGY CARDEN RECEIVES PEE DEE DISTRICT'S LIFE MEMBERSHIP AWARD

Mrs. Peggy Carden was honored at the Pee Dee District Ladies' Auxiliary Spring Convention, held at White Oak Church in Bladenboro, NC, on April 9, 2005. Mrs. Carden received the Life Membership Award. She received many gracious comments from her fellow auxiliary members, as well as family and friends. Many of her family members were able to attend, and those who were not there sent flowers, cards, and congratulations. She received many warm words of praise and best wishes.

Mrs. Carden is an exceptional Christian lady. She sets an example for all. She is always ready to help, encourage, lead, or serve. She is truly devoted to her God, church, family, church family, and community. She is a devoted wife who helps Dr. Bobby Carden with his ministry. She is a wonderful asset to our auxiliary and we are happy to honor her with the Life Membership Award.



Peggy Carden

CAMP VANDEMERE

"O SEND OUT THY LIGHT AND THY TRUTH" (Psalm 43:3)

We thank God for the spiritual refuge that we have in our camp, Camp Vandemere. The many opportunities that our camp gives to everyone who comes down for retreats, camping weeks, and other activities happen because of your unselfish giving and prayers. Whether it is through time, money, or your talent, we greatly appreciate all your efforts in making Camp Vandemere a place to seek out the Lord.

We encourage you to come and visit the camp to see the many things that have been accomplished during the past months in preparation for another season of camping and retreats.

As reported in an earlier issue, linens are now being provided. New drop ceilings have been installed in the dining hall and overall dorm area. The showers in the boys' dorm have been upgraded with additional stall areas better utilizing the space provided.

We invite you to come join us for a quiet time of rest in a quaint area of Pamlico County on the Bay River and take in the beauty of the camp.

2005 CAMP SCHEDULE

June 3-4	State Layman's League Retreat
June 5-10	Summer Camp (Director: The Rev. Tim and Gail Heath (252) 638-3808 and Wesley Taylor (252) 745-3171)
June 10-11	Watson Grove Church Retreat
June 12-17	Tarboro First Summer Camp
June 20-23	Women's Week of Camp (Director: Audrey Quinn (252) 638-6406)
June 24-26	Camp Reserved
June 26-July 1	Summer Camp (Director: Curtis and Cristy Ramsey (910) 324-1507)
July 1-3	Open
July 4-8	Juniper Chapel Church Retreat
July 10-15	Summer Camp (Director: Eva Mae Clark (252) 637-5346)
July 16	Camp Reserved
July 18-22	Summer Camp (Director: Berry Hodowanic (252) 249-0133)
July 25-29	Summer Camp (Director: Justin Mosley and Wesley Taylor (252) 745-3171)
Aug. 1-5	Summer Camp (Director: John Thompson (252) 633-0025)
Aug. 5-7	Peace Church Retreat
Aug. 8-12	Little Rock Church (The Rev. John Hill (252) 239-1958)
Aug. 12-13	White Oak Grove Church Retreat
Aug. 19-20	Singin' By The River
Aug. 26-27	Piney Grove Church Retreat
Sept. 9-10	Boy Scout Weekend

Look for July's *Free Will Baptist* to get an update on the happenings during the Second Annual Spring Sing and Open House.

If any group or church would like more information concerning the camp, please contact the Camp Manager, Wesley Taylor. He can be reached at the camp by telephone: (252) 745-3171, cell phone: (252) 514-3222, or pager: (252) 634-1287. A presentation and slide program are available per request.

HOW TO APPROACH CHURCH VOLUNTEERS

by Sharlene Howell, Guest Writer

Have you ever considered some of the approaches we use when we look for people to fill offices in the church? Have you ever heard any of these? "This job won't interfere with any of your plans." "It won't take much of your time." "It's a small class, so you don't have to prepare too much." "It's only once a week." "It will be so easy." "All you have to do is..."

I've heard these lines, and I'm afraid I've used them, too. The goal is to get volunteers, and we feel that if we make the tasks sound simple enough, people will agree to do them.

But maybe we need to think again about this approach. There are problems that result from our easy attitude. We may get volunteers who take their work much too lightly. Some volunteers find out the job is not quite as easy as they had anticipated, and they get discouraged and give up.

Sometimes the problem is not in the way we ask for volunteers, but in the example they are getting from us! "Need to give a devotion before a meeting? You can grab a devotion book out of the church library before and find something just before the meeting starts." Teaching a Sunday School class? Do you ever simply read over the lesson the night before, and figure that's good enough? Do we spend time in prayer before we

ever try to minister to someone else? Jesus did. Some of us have the attitude that since we're doing it for the Lord, whatever we do is fine, because He understands we're not perfect. This way of doing things is a tradition we do not need to pass on to others. Perhaps we should remember that in the group that will hear your lesson, or your devotion, or your song, there is someone who has a spiritual need. What you say and do may be the thing they need most. If you knew that was true, wouldn't you want to give it your all?

at a price; neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the Lord my God of that which doth cost me nothing" (2 Samuel 24:24). Would we have responded the same way? Or would we have welcomed the opportunity to get something for nothing? When we offer our service to the Lord, we should have the attitude David had. Our service is an offering to God, and we must give it our very best.

Let's look at what Jesus said to those He called to serve God. He never tried to make it sound too easy. He told people to deny themselves (Matthew 16:24). He said to be His disciple, a person must put Him before everything and everyone else (Luke 14:26). He said it would not be

easy, that we would encounter trouble, and some would encounter persecution (John 15:20-21). But that's not all He said. He promised that whatever we give up for His sake, we will receive more—in this life and in the life to come (Luke 18:29-30). He promised that we will have an abundant life (John 10:10). He promised us joy (John 15:11). He promised to always be with us (Matthew 28:20). And He promised us a mansion in Heaven. What does it cost to serve God? Everything. Will it be worth it some day? It already is.

Ministry in Action

There is a story in 2 Samuel 24 about King David. Here was a man with servants waiting to help him. He could do everything the easiest way—by letting someone else do it for him. But look at his attitude. David wanted to build an altar to pray in a particular place—on a threshing floor owned by someone else. So, David asked the owner, Araunah, if he could buy it. When Araunah learned that King David wanted to set up an altar there to pray, he wanted to give it to David. But David insisted on paying for it. He said, "I will surely buy it of thee

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY
FROM THE MANAGEMENT AND STAFF
OF THE FREE WILL BAPTIST PRESS

HOPEWELL CHURCH HAS HOT MISSIONS EVENT

by Helen Floyd, Study-Course Chair, Hopewell Woman's Auxiliary

Hopewell Church's Woman's Auxiliary kicked it up a notch with its recently sponsored Missions Study Course. About forty people gathered in the Fellowship Building for a "visit to Nepal" with an authentic Nepalese meal. Harold Jones, Director of OFWB International, and his wife, Sandra, were the honored guests and speakers for the evening.

Helen Floyd welcomed everyone, explaining that they would not be eating goat or mutton, favorites of Nepal. Sighs of relief could be heard around the room. Pastor Scott Casey asked God's blessings on the evening and gave thanks for the food. Everybody eagerly partook of the hot, spicy supper before them, which included hot ginger, garlic, pork over rice, salad greens with honey mustard dressing, spiced apricots and raisins, and yogurt and fig bars. With each mouthful, exclamations were heard around the tables like, "Man, this is hot!" and "Pass the ice water!" and "This really is good." Hats off to the cooks who prepared the delicious food. They were Jane Parker,



Harold and Sandra Jones greeting people that attended the Missions Event at Hopewell Church.

June Wallace, Myrtle Jones, Jean Langdom, Doug Wall, and Helen Floyd.

Supper, being ended, Brother Harold showed slides of visits to Nepal, India, Bulgaria, Philippines, and Mexico. Our hearts were touched by all that we saw and heard of the successful outreach and ministry of the Gospel in these foreign fields. Sandra was wearing a cloak a lady in Nepal had given her on one of the vis-

its there and she told of how this gift and expression of love had blessed her.

We, at Hopewell, are thankful for all who share the Gospel and for everyone who come to a knowledge of the truth of God. Harold and Sandra are faithful to this ministry and the shining examples of their service encourages us. We love them and share their passion for souls.

Our "trip to Nepal" came to a close with a presentation by auxiliary president, Jane Parker. Jane presented Harold with the love offering taken up for the meal and a generous gift for the missions work.

Jane thanked Harold and Sandra for coming and prayed the benediction. After cleaning up, we all went home glad we'd been in God's House and happy for the warmth of the Holy Spirit as He brought such joy.

Next year, God willing, we'll ask Harold and Sandra back to Hopewell and we'll enjoy another fine evening. In the meantime, we pray: "Lord of the harvest, send forth laborers that thy kingdom may increase." Amen.

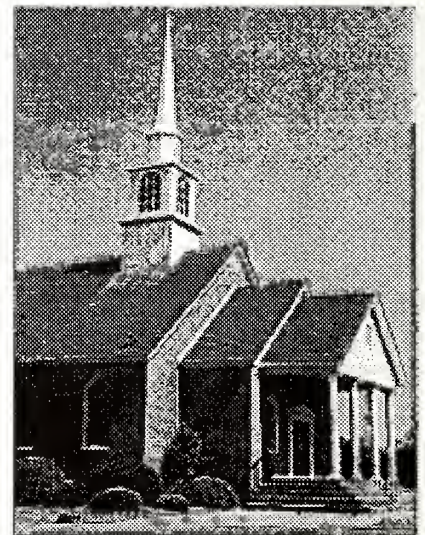
**Please join the ROSE HILL CHURCH
on Sunday, June 12, 2005, at 6 P.M.
to hear Ms. Julie Ocker discuss
assessment services, prevention, and
treatment of alleged victims of child abuse.**

Since January 2004, Ms. Ocker has been the director of the TEDI BEAR: (CAC) (Children's Advocacy Center) where more than 400 children who are alleged victims of child abuse receive highly specialized assessment services and treatment each year. Previously, Ms. Ocker was the director of the Child Protection Team of Brevard County in Melbourne, Florida. Working in the CAC setting with child victims since 1998, she also served on the Statewide Quality Assurance Review Team for the Department of Health in the state of Florida. She has more than 15 years of experience working with "at-risk" children in various settings, to include public schools as well as community, residential, and in-patient mental health treatment facilities. She earned a master's degree in counseling from Rollins College and an undergraduate from Florida State University.

For additional information call:

Rose Hill FWB Church
Pastor: Leon E. Harris
6236 County Home Road
Winterville, NC 28590
(252) 746-2415 or (252) 746-4320

Rose Hill FWB Church



"I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord" (Psalm 122:1)

THANK YOU

To Our Free Will Baptist Family:

For every prayer offered, every call and card, every visit tendered, every act of kindness rendered, we share our deep and continued appreciation. Each sympathetic response to Josh's death has been a wonderful help in time of grief and sorrow. To the churches we have pastored and to so many other churches, family and friends, we simply and sincerely say "Thank You!" We offer thanks to the Lord for help in time of need.

He giveth more grace when the burdens grow greater;

He sendeth more strength when the labors increase,

To added affliction He addeth His mercy;

To multiplied trials, His multiplied peace.

—Annie Johnson Flint

Joshua Logan Heath

February 26, 1981—March 28, 2005

With deep appreciation and in Christian love,

Calvin, Debbie, J.C., and Jason Heath

BLACK JACK LAYMAN'S LEAGUE RECEIVES CHARTER

On Sunday, May 1, 2005, during the evening worship service the Layman's League of Black Jack Church was presented a charter from the State OFWB Christian Layman's League. State President, Russell Tyson was on hand to present the charter, as well as the State Vice-President, Roy Wetherington, and Eason Barnhill, President of Central Conference Layman's League.

A men's ministry called Men's Fellowship was started at Black Jack in the early to mid 1990s and has been continuous since that time, but had never requested a charter from the conference or state. The Black Jack Layman's League has about 24 active members and is supported by the pastor, the Rev. Phillip Boykin, and associate pastor, Scott Satterfield. The League continues to seek involvement from more men in the church as they look for opportunities to serve and assist others in the name of the Lord.

The service was ended with the ordinance of Washing of the Saints' Feet, which was a perfect reminder of our Lord's example of the humble service we are to share one with another.

LAYMAN'S LEAGUE

LAYMAN'S LEAGUE SPIRITUAL LIFE RETREAT

Camp Vandemere, Vandemere, NC

June 3-4, 2005

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou are also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses (1 Timothy 6:12).

Theme: The Good Fight of Faith

Friday, June 3

6:00 P.M.

Meal (\$5): followed by Business Session

10:45-11:00 A.M.

Break

11:00-11:30 A.M.

"The Believer's Victory"—
Mr. Van Hauser
(2 Timothy 4:6-8)

Saturday, June 4

8:00-9:00 A.M.

Breakfast (\$4) and Fellowship

9:00-9:30 A.M.

"The Believer's Battle"
—Mr. George Johnson
(Ephesians 6:10-18)

11:30-12:00 P.M.

Prayer and Meditation

12:00-1:00 P.M.

Lunch (\$5)

9:30-9:45 A.M.

Recreation and Fellowship

1:00 P.M.

Benediction

9:45-10:45 A.M.

SPECIAL MUSIC:
The Gospel Countrymen

*One of the greatest needs in
the church is dedicated laymen.*

To All Friends and Former Church Members of The Reverend Allen B. Bryan

Mr. Bryan has moved to:

402-B Crandell Street, Robersonville, NC 28333. His phone number is (252) 795-5564.

He has moved to be near his daughter, Peggy B. Cochran. He would love to hear from the churches he has pastored over the last 60 years.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE INFORMATION FOR ARTICLES AND ADVERTISING

The deadline for submissions to *The Free Will Baptist* is the 5th day of the month prior to publication. (Example: Items to be published in a January issue must be in no later than the 5th day of December.) You may submit items by any of the following methods:

- E-mail to <editor@fwbpress.com>,
- Fax to (252) 746-9248, Attn: Editor,
- Hand deliver, or
- Mail to: Editor, *The Free Will Baptist*
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Ayden, NC 28513.

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Let's all bow our heads
and pray as follows:
"Lord, help me to admit
it when I am wrong,
and make me easier to
live with when I am right."

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

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Beaverdam Church, Clarendon, NC
Bethany Church, Wadesboro, NC
Bethany Layman's League, Winterville, NC
Bethel Church, Four Oaks, NC
Beulaville Church, Beulaville, NC
Black Jack Church, Greenville, NC
Cabin Church, Beulaville, NC
Charity Mission/Church, Whiteville, NC
Christian Chapel Church, Pink Hill, NC
Core Creek Church, Cove City, NC
Covenant Church, Hope Mills, NC
Crab Point Church, Morehead City, NC
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Harmony Church, Wilson, NC

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Hopewell Church, Smithfield, NC
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Rains Crossroads Church, Kenly, NC
Reedy Branch Church, Winterville, NC

Robert's Grove Woman's Aux., Dunn, NC
Rock Springs Church, Bailey, NC
Rose Hill Church, Winterville, NC
Rose of Sharon Church, Robersonville, NC
Russell Creek Church, Beaufort, NC
Saint's Delight Church, Ayden, NC
Saint's Delight Church, New Bern, NC
Saratoga Church, Saratoga, NC
Selma Church, Selma, NC
Shady Grove Church, Dunn, NC
Sidney Church, Belhaven, NC
Silver Creek Church, Swansboro, NC
Smith's New Home Church, Deep Run, NC
Smyrna Church, Benson, NC
Sneads Ferry Church, Sneads Ferry, NC
Snow Hill Church, Mount Olive, NC
Spring Branch Church, Walstonburg, NC
Spring Hill Church, Goldsboro, NC
St. Mary's Church, Kenly, NC
St. Mary's Church, New Bern, NC
St. Mary's Grove Church, Benson, NC
St. Paul Church, Newton Grove, NC
Steven's Chapel Church, Benson, NC
Stony Hill Church, Middlesex, NC
Sweet Gum Grove Church, Stokes, NC
Tee's Chapel Church, Smithfield, NC
Union Chapel Church, Middlesex, NC
Union Chapel Church, Plymouth, NC
Unity Church, Wilson, NC
Vandora Springs Church, Garner, NC
Verona Church, Jacksonville, NC
Walnut Creek Church, La Grange, NC
Wardens Grove Church, Lowland, NC
Westside Church, Kinston, NC
Whaley's Chapel Church, Richlands, NC
White Hill Church, Aurora, NC
White Oak Church, Bladenboro, NC
White Oak Church, La Grange, NC
Wildwood Church, Garner, NC
Wintergreen Church, Cove City, NC
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July 2005

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THE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST MONTHLY PLANNER July 2005



MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE MONTH

Meeting dates and locations are subject to change. You are encouraged to call in advance to confirm meeting schedules.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2 Foreign Missions Short-Term Team Mission Trip (2 nd -9 th)
3	4 INDEPENDENCE DAY	5	6	7	8	9 Foreign Missions Short-Term Team Mission Trip (9 th -16 th)
10	11	12	13	14	15	16 Foreign Missions Short-Term Team Mission Trip (16 th -23 rd)
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	<div>COMING SOON:</div> <div>August 6-14: Foreign Missions Short-Term Team Mission Trip</div> <div>NOTES:</div>					

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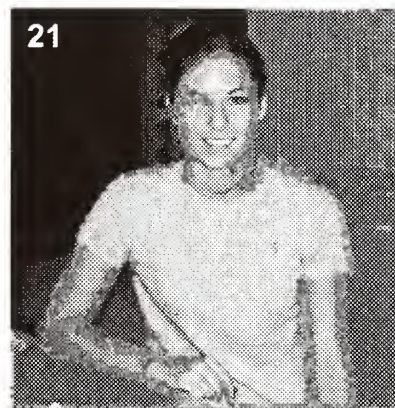
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POWER VERSE

Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD;
and the people whom he hath chosen for his
own inheritance (Psalm 33:12).

A "THANK YOU," AMONG OTHER THINGS

by Darren E. Davenport, Editor

Responses to my pleas for contributions to various columns has been good these last couple of months. I'm so glad there are people out there in "reading land" who feel a call or a nudge to write once in a while. I believe, and I hope you will agree, this really adds more substance to *your* denominational publication. It's good to read of the thoughts, ideas, and opinions of others throughout the Original Free Will Baptist Church. We don't have to agree with everything that is written, but this can be a great resource of the new or interesting from which to gain or pull ideas. My regular, or semi-regular (whenever I can think of something to say) column is *Focus*. Hopefully, something said here may be of some value. That, of course, is my hope! I know, however, there is a lot to be said, or heard, from out there. Our readership would like to here from some of those people.



Send in articles about your thoughts, ideas, challenges, changes, troubles, heartaches, ministry opportunities, and so on. All I ask of those who will is this: Please don't be negative or combative—be positive and a team builder. We, as a denomination called by God, are called to build and grow the Kingdom of God. A part of the purpose of this magazine is "to promote a spirit of harmony and cooperation with the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation and the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists." This is inclusive of all our ministries and our people. We must work together! My hope and prayer is that this publication, this tool, helps us to do just that—work together.

Again, your help is needed. We have very capable people out there who can send helpful "reading."

God bless us all!

THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT!

by C. H. Overman, Editor Emeritus

In researching information related to the founding and establishment of our great nation, there is no doubt as to our founding fathers' intentions. Past presidents attest to the truth that America was founded upon Christian principles. Furthermore, a majority of Americans share in a common faith and their lives are regulated by Christian ethics and morals.

The earliest documents and declarations made their intentions clear, beginning with the first chapter of Virginia, in which they declared that their undertaking was by the providence of almighty God. The Mayflower Compact, which was signed by forty-one adult males while still on board the ship, declared that their mission was "undertaken for the glory of God and advancement of Christian faith." They also agreed to "combine [themselves] together into a Civil Body Politic," in order to govern and regulate their lives in the colony. Also, Governor William Bradford of Plymouth Plantation viewed the colony as a religious society with the intention of propagating and advancing the Gospel of the Kingdom of Christ.

The Fundamental Orders of Connecticut, known as the world's first written constitution, begins with the words, "Forasmuch as it has pleased Almighty God by the wise disposition of His Divine Providence...that the Word of God requires that to maintain the peace and union of such a people there should be an orderly and decent government established according to God, to order and dispose

of the affairs of all the people at all seasons as occasions shall require." The state constitutions which followed serve as proof that Christianity played a major role in what was the beginning of this great nation. It surely was not by chance that the U.S. Constitution states that its drafting took place "in the year of our Lord."

While religious freedom, meaning the freedom to worship God according to the dictates of one's own conscience, is guaranteed in the first amendment ("Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...") it is becoming more and more evident that there are those who would take away the right of worship by omitting the second phrase. Our government is forbidden from recognizing any religion or denomination as the official State church, while assuring freedom of worship (not freedom from worship).

This freedom of worship is a basic freedom. We should faithfully thank God for those who braved an unknown world to establish this place we call America. It is by His hand that we have been so blessed. The price of our freedoms has been heavy in the loss of thousands of our brave soldiers. They paid the ultimate price, just as the signers of the Declaration of Independence risked their all for the freedom we cherish so deeply. There is no doubt about it—America was founded upon Christian principles. With all their faults and failures, our founding fathers knew what they were doing, and they did it right.



I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE TO FREEDOM AND JUSTICE...FOR ALL!

by Tara Dixon

(Tara Dixon is a member of Black Jack Church, Pitt County. This article was originally printed in D. H. Conley High School's student newspaper. It is reprinted with permission.)

It seems to me that you can't walk down the halls these days without having to hear fellow classmates complain about people trying to take over their lives. Some teens think their parents are over controlling, and some think teachers are out to take over the world.

Well, personally, I think we complain too much. When you sit down and think about all of the rights we have as American teenagers, it's awesome compared to the rest of the world.

For example, we have the freedom to worship or not worship whoever we want in whatever way we want to do it. There are yearly events like GEM 2005 at Black Jack Church and Worshipfest. We even have our very own Bible Club at D. H. Conley that meets at school in the auditorium. I think it's ridiculous to complain about lack of religious freedom when so many people are working hard to give us the opportunity to worship freely.

We are also blessed with the freedom to get an education at the highest level we desire. For example, students can choose to drop out of school at age 16, or they can go on to as many years of college as they wish. The government does not prohibit a student from going to any school regardless of race,

age, or gender. Although we don't appreciate it all the time, we should at least keep in mind that this is a rare opportunity in many other parts of the world.

We often complain that we have to be in school too long or that the school system puts too many regulations on us. But I feel that we have a gracious amount of freedom. We are allowed to miss reasonable amounts of school without legal persecution, and we don't have to wear uniforms. We can apply to whatever college or university we choose, and go into whatever career makes us happy. We have teachers who give us their home phone numbers to call them for help, and we can choose our own pathways of success. Our school system certainly offers more freedoms than we sometimes think!

When I wake up in the morning, I have the choice of what to eat for breakfast, what kind of shampoo I want to use, and what type of clothes I put on. When I get to school, I get to choose when I go to my locker, whom I hang out with, and how much work I put into my studies. This year I have chosen my own boyfriend, and two years ago I decided my own religion. Not many women in the

world have all of those rights. So unless those rights are messed with, I have no right to complain!

However, I think the greatest right that we have as teenagers and young adults is the right to change the things we don't like by taking an active role in government. Beginning even in middle school, teenagers are given the chance to run for class office or at least vote for class officers. At age 18 we can vote for the leader of our country! My mom has always taught me that you can't complain unless you have done everything you can to help change the situation, and I completely support her opinion.

How many 18 year old teenagers in the world have the power to make such large decisions in their government? Not many! It's time for us to take a stand and accept some of the responsibility of voting before we complain about our local and federal leaders.

How dare we complain about not having rights?! We as teenagers have the right to change the world! Next time you think about complaining, sit down and think about all of the rights you have and what you can do to make things better. Then all you have to do is make it happen! ▲

The seal of Mount Olive College is a circular emblem with a scalloped border. Inside the border, the words "MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE" are written in a circular path. The center of the seal features a stylized illustration of a building with a steeple, possibly a church or a college building, with rays of light emanating from behind it.

The Distinctive Ministry Of Mount Olive College

by W. Burkette Raper, President Emeritus, Mount Olive College

Dr. Raper wrote the following article for a program in the Woman's Auxiliary book, Devotion. However, since July is Christian education month, others can benefit from understanding the distinctive ministry the Free Will Baptist Church brought into existence when it gave birth to Mount Olive College.

Dr. Raper is the oldest of four children whose parents were members of Little Rock Original Free Will Baptist Church in Wilson County, NC. Following the death of their father, the three oldest children (ages 9, 5, and 3) became residents of the Free Will Baptist Orphanage (now Children's Home). While at the Orphanage, he experienced his calling to the Christian ministry. Upon graduation from Middlesex High School he entered Duke University where he earned a baccalaureate degree, followed by a masters degree from Duke Divinity School, and later a graduate degree in higher education from Florida State University.

Ordained in 1946 by the Western Conference, he served as pastor of various Free Will Baptist churches until he was elected president of Mount Olive College in 1954 at the age of 26. At that time, he was the youngest college president in the United States, and upon his retirement from that office forty years later, he was the current longest tenured president. Upon his retirement from the President's Office in 1995 through 2004 he served as Director of Planned Giving at the College, a work he describes as "helping good people do good things." On January 1, 2005, he officially retired from the College, however, he is seen quite frequently on the campus and is still diligent in serving the College.

In 1951, he was married to Rose Mallard, a member of Friendship Free Will Baptist Church, Trenton, NC, and together they were blessed to become the parents of six children and nine grandchildren and an increasing number of great grandchildren.

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge... (Hosea 4:6a).

*If you continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth,
and the truth shall make you free (John 8:31b-32).*

In our national calendar, July is the month we celebrate our Declaration of Independence, which was written primarily by Thomas Jefferson, a great patriot and a chief architect of freedom for our nation. Jefferson, who later became one of the founders of the University of Virginia, also wrote: "If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, it expects what has never been and what never will be."

What is true of a nation is also true of a church. Just as a democracy depends upon an educated citizenry, even so the Church depends upon a constituency who understand the Christian faith and its relevance to their lives. The Reverend David W. Hansley, founding chair of the Mount Olive College Board of Trustees, spoke to this point when he quoted the Prophet Hosea in his remarks to the faculty at the beginning of the first academic year in Mount Olive: "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge."

A College for the Church

Mount Olive College did not just happen—it was made to happen. But why? Why would a convention of some thirty-five thousand members, principally rural people with no major financial resources or experienced leadership in higher education, undertake to establish a college?

It was my good fortune to personally know the founders of Mount Olive College who initiated

its founding in 1951. They were people who believed deeply in the historic articles of faith of Original Free Will Baptists which extend back to the seventeenth century. They loved their church, appreciated its heritage and had a vision for a college that would help the Free Will Baptist Church fulfill its God-given mission in the world. The founders of Mount Olive College had a tenacious commitment to the faith of their church and they wanted to perpetuate this faith to future generations. It was their commitment, blessed by God, that enabled them to prevail against overwhelming odds in establishing and developing Mount Olive into a college that has become a source of great joy and pride to so many today. Those who know its history view Mount Olive College as gift from God for the advancement of His work through Christian higher education.

When people come today to the one hundred and thirty-five acre campus of the College, they see a beautiful landscape of mighty oaks

which frame a dozen modern buildings connected by walkways and streets. They also see hundreds of students who move about the campus in search of their future.

This inspiring scene, however, has not always been the picture of Mount Olive College. Prior to what we see today was an abandoned grammar school building, purchased largely on credit, with an initial enrollment of twenty-two students. Linking these two scenes is a half-century of hard work and generosity undergirded by the Christian faith, and the love of their church by a noble people called Original Free Will Baptists. In the vanguard of these people were the woman's auxiliaries.

One of the most distinguishing features of Mount Olive College is its relationship with the Free Will Baptist Church. It is a relationship which needs to be nurtured and safeguarded, for without this relationship the College would lose one of the primary purposes for which it was founded. ▲

HIGHER LEARNING

HIGHER STANDARDS

HIGHER VALUES



Becoming Who You Are

1 Corinthians 15:1-10

by Dr. Tyanna Yonkers Day

(This is the Commencement Worship Sermon that was given on May 7, 2005 at Mount Olive College.)

Well, how does it feel to be sitting there, just hours away from being handed a certificate that declares you a graduate of Mount Olive College? I imagine that some of you may feel you have accomplished one of the hardest and most important tasks in your lives. But I can tell you that there is a task even more demanding and more important—that yet awaits you. Oh right, is it getting another degree? Getting that long awaited job or promotion? Re-connecting with the family who has long since given up on seeing you at any family functions?

No, though these are monumental and important tasks, the one that is the most difficult and yet the most important is the task of becoming who you are. So many of us spend our lives trying to become someone whom we are not. In the end we find ourselves dry and unhappy, searching for that all elusive meaning in life.

I have the privilege of teaching the first module of the Modular Religion Program at our College's Mount Olive location. The first night of class I engage the students with a task that for most is quite difficult. We take time to introduce ourselves to one another—without telling what we do. Think about it. If you had to introduce yourself to a group

of people, but you could not tell them your occupation or even what you hope to “be when you grow up,” what would you say? We spend so much time wrapping our identity around what we do or hope to do that we fail to live into who we are.

I can imagine that the Apostle Paul struggled with this. In our text for today, we catch a glimpse of that struggle. There was dissention among the ranks. Paul writes and affirms that it is okay for them to be different, as long as the Gospel message of the Life, Death, Burial and Resurrection of Christ remained constant. After all, there is no such thing as cookie cutter Christians.

The apostles were what they were because of God's grace. Yes, they were made into new creatures in Christ, but God did not wipe out their personalities in the process. God uniquely created each apostle and part of that creation included their personality. Their personalities made them who they were and their personalities became an integral part of their ministries. As God freely offered the gift of grace and salvation, the apostles freely accepted and began living a life of grace. Living this life of grace opened them to the transforming creation of God.

Look at Paul for example. Prior to his conversion experience he fervently persecuted the Christians. What happened after his conversion? He fervently proclaimed Christianity. Why? Because God had

created him with a personality that was aggressive and zealous. God used that part of Paul's personality to achieve God's will.

When God created humankind what did he say? Did God say, “Oh what a rotten bunch of people I have created”? No! God said, “It is good.” Yet, when sin entered the picture it did not make us bad, rather the bad was in the things we did—in our behaviors and attitudes. God's grace works to change those attitudes and behaviors which are not pleasing to God.

God does not change our personalities. Your personalities are part of your unique creation by God.

As individuals we need to discover whom it is that God is calling us to be. When we do this, our journey moves forward. It does not stagnate as a pool of water without another body in which to flow. It moves forward carrying the Gospel message out into the world as we live in the rhythm of our lives. This happens through the grace of God working through all of us.

Paul made himself fully available to the grace God offered. Paul accepted freely the gift of grace and thus it was reflected in the service he performed for God. Paul lived the life of grace which set him on the journey to becoming real—the real human being that God created him to become.

We must freely open ourselves to the bountiful grace of God, that God may work through us. We need to open ourselves through study,

prayer, and meditation. As we begin to freely accept the grace God offers, we will begin to reflect the light of Christ to those around us. The more light we allow to enter our hearts and minds the more we will reflect to others.

So how is it then that we become who we are? We become by beginning the journey. St. Bonaventure says that our journey is at once an ascent toward God while at the same time being a descent into ourselves, where God is. We discover ourselves by looking deeply within, in the mirror of ourselves to see who it is that God has created us to be.

The word “marvel” comes from the Latin word “mirari,” which means to marvel at or to wonder at, to become filled with surprise or wonder or astonishment.

There is something else interesting about that Latin word “mirari.” It is the same word from which we get our word mirror. What does a mirror do? It reflects our image back to us. What we see in that mirror is not who we really are, but it is a reflection of our outward person.

Why did God become incarnate in Jesus? To show us our true humanity. To remind us that we are made in the *imago dei*, in the image of God. What is the role of that image? To reflect, to mirror to others the Christ that is within us that we all may marvel at the mysteries of God.

The Parable of the Eagles

Some of God’s children are oppressed. Have you seen them? They have been deeply wounded by their oppressors—oppressors who are mean-spirited and intentional, and oppressors who wound without consciously meaning to wound. The inner beings of God’s children cry out for healing. They are broken. They are like eagles who long to soar but have given up after discovering

their wings have been clipped. Hear this parable.

God made all creatures with purpose and God called them to live into that purpose. Some were called to be ostriches, some penguins, and others to be eagles who would soar the blue hued expanse above the earth. Those who were called as eagles were joyous. They answered God’s call. “Yes! We want to be eagles for you, our Creator.”

These eagles lived close to God’s heart. They learned God’s ways. God loved them and nurtured them and taught them to be great soarers in the heavens. The time came for them to mount up in flight for God. They extended their wings—only to discover—their wings had been clipped. They knew God had designed them to be eagles to soar above the tree tops. But something went wrong. Somehow they had been taken captive. Their captors lied to them through sweet sounding words, subtly clipping their wings, one feather at a time.

The captors said to one eagle, “You are mistaken. You are not an eagle! Look again and see who it is God has called you to be.”

And so, the eagle looked, and with disappointment and pain began to believe that God did not make him an eagle. The eagle said to his captors, “You are right. I was not made to be an eagle. What could I have been thinking?! Oh, yes, I see more clearly now, I am an ostrich! Ostriches do not fly. They just stick their heads in the sand.”

And so, one of God’s mighty eagles stuck his head in the sand, hiding from the true reality of who it was that God wanted him to be.

Then another eagle, who had taken a second guessing look at herself, proclaimed timidly, “Behold, I am not an eagle. How foolish of me. Look! I am—a penguin!”

And so, the beautiful, talented eagle settled for the second best way to be who God wanted her to be. This eagle found an alternative means to live out her calling in life. She could soar—well, sort of anyway—in a different way—an under-water soaring—of sorts. It would be an okay way to live out her being. Yet inside, her heart bled tears of loss—longing for wholeness—longing to be who it was that God the Creator designed and nurtured her to be.

This eagle sat on the icy banks of what she had settled for and frequently gazed up into the sky wondering what it would be like to soar like an eagle.

One day, along came friends—a community of affirmers who had been discerning the whispers of God’s Spirit. They said to the eagle turned ostrich, “Friend, why is it that you, an eagle, have your head stuck in the ground like an ostrich?”

“But I am an ostrich!” came the reply. “I tried hard to be an eagle, but I was told I was wrong. I was told I misunderstood, for I was really an ostrich.”

The affirmers said, “Spread out your wings and soar! God has made you to be an eagle! Soar, friend, soar!”

Then the community spoke to the eagle turned penguin and asked, “Why do you sit here along these icy banks when God has designed you to soar to the mountain heights?”

“Why, I am not an eagle! I am a penguin. That is what I have been told. That is what I concluded about myself.”

Again the community replied, “Spread your wings, daughter, and soar! You are an eagle by God’s desire. Soar—be the eagle God wants you to be and be healed!”

The two eagles looked at one another, spread out their mighty wings

and behold—they were no longer clipped. It had been so long since they last tried to be the eagles God wanted them to be that they did not know their wings had formed again to the fullness of God's original design. Their hearts fluttered with joy! Their wounds were healing!

Together they began to flap their mighty wings. It felt good. It felt right. They had rediscovered God's call for their being.

At a whisper they heard ringing in their ears a sweet harmony, "Fly, eagles, fly!" The harmony quickly crescendoed to a mighty roar! "Fly, eagles, fly! Fly, eagles, fly!" The eagles tried out their newly discovered wings. First with a hop from the ground...then from the limb of a mighty oak and finally from a rocky crag high above a deep canyon. Off they jumped, first one and then the other, wings outstretched to embrace the flight. They caught the wind and it felt good! They began to ride on the winds with the Spirit of God blowing through their being. Up higher and higher to new heights in God's great creation.

Encouragement and affirmation rose from the community below. "See, you are eagles, so soar with all your being!"

In the midst of flight the eagles began to remember, "Yes, yes, this is who God made us to be. We are eagles, and we can soar!"

Together the eagles rejoiced, for the wounds from their oppressors were finally discovering healing. They were on the journey to wholeness, never again allowing themselves to be deceived into thinking that they would have to be anything

other than eagles, for that is who God had called and created them to be.

Becoming real is something in which we cooperate with God and with one another. It cannot be handed over to us without effort. We do not grow in faith by simply passively accepting what others tell us. We need to grapple with things of faith, struggle with it and discard the chaff so that we may deepen our faith and make it our very own.

Margery Williams, in her children's classic *The Velveteen Rabbit* offers an illustration that I would like to share with you.

The Skin Horse had lived longer in the nursery than any of the others. He was so old that his brown coat was bald in patches and showed the seams underneath, and most of the hairs in his tail had been pulled out to string bead necklaces. He was wise, for he had seen a long succession of mechanical toys arrive to boast and swagger, and by-and-by break their mainsprings and pass away, and he knew that they were only toys, and would never turn into anything else. For nursery magic is very strange and wonderful, and only those playthings that are old and wise and experienced like the Skin Horse understand all about it.

"What is REAL?" asked the [Velveteen] Rabbit one day, when they were lying side by side near the nursery fender before Nana came to tidy the room. "Does it mean having things that buzz inside you and a stick-out handle?"

"Real isn't how you are made," said the Skin Horse. "It's a thing that happens to you. When a child loves you for a long, long time, not just to play with, but REALLY loves you, then you become Real."

"Does it hurt?" asked the Rabbit.

"Sometimes," said the Skin Horse, for he was always truthful. "When you are Real you don't mind being hurt."

"Does it happen all at once, like being wound up," he asked, "or bit by bit?"

"It doesn't happen all at once," said the Skin Horse. "You become. It takes a long time. That's why it doesn't often happen to people who break easily, or have sharp edges, or who have to be carefully kept. Generally, by the time you are Real, most of your hair has been loved off, and your eyes drop out and you get loose in the joints and very shabby. But these things don't matter at all, because once you are Real you can't be ugly, except to people who don't understand."

I am what I am. You are what you are. We are what we are. God is seeking to make us real. God desires for us to become who we are. God is offering you the gift of grace that you may become real to others. It will take time, time along the journey of life; time along your spiritual journey. Yes, there are bumps and bruises to be encountered along the way, but it is all part of the loving grace process. Christ loves you so much and is seeking to make you real. Each time you experience joy and the presence of God you get closer to becoming real. Each time you experience pain and suffering you get closer to becoming real.

Ask not for a flawless, painless life, rather seek to be used through the grace of God, that you may glorify God in the process and become all you were created to become. Go today, not just with a degree in your hand, but with a resolve in your heart to become who you are! Amen! ▲

"But by the grace of God I am what I am..." (1 Corinthians 15:10a).

INSIGHT FOR PRAYERS

by Faye H. Carraway, Guest Writer

God watches over us in love. If we look through His eyes at ourselves, we should have the strength to offer help to the weak and encourage the faith of those failing in God's service. We need to share our prayers for other's in public and secret. When we search our own hearts and minds, we have succeeded to give ourselves to others and we can help so many people to have the strength to begin another day. Be the giver of listening and sharing of your heart to someone who needs it and then you will open up with your heart and mind.

In the Living Bible, Romans 12:6-8, it reads: "God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well. So, if God has given you the ability to prophesy, then prophesy whenever you can—as often as your faith is strong enough to receive a message from God. If your gift is that of serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, do a good job of teaching. If you are a preacher, see to it that your sermons are strong and helpful. If God has given you money, be generous in helping others with it. If God has given you administrative ability and put you in charge of the work of others, take the responsibility seriously. Those who offer comfort to the sorrowing should do so with Christian cheer."

God has given us the ability to shed tears for people to help cleanse us and give us the strength and the fortitude to help them with whatever their troubles may be. It's like when God gives us a rainstorm...it cleanses the earth so it can begin another beautiful day. When you can send prayers to those in need and send hope and strength with God's words, then you are able to travel the tough roads of caring and sharing. Then you can shed tears for those in need, you get a cleansing from God to give you the strength and the fortitude to help and take care of those who are sick, and also the weak and the weary.

There are no checkered flags at the end or confetti in the parade of life, but there is reassurance that we have done our best to give all we had to give. Everyone can be a caregiver, a love giver, or a joy giver or a hope giver. It does not require a college degree to give of yourself. The only thing that matters is your time and your love that you are willing to part with. When you have extended yourself to the last thread and then find time to begin again, then you have accomplished what God strives so hard for us to do. He only gives us what we can handle...no more and no less. It sometimes feels the road

becomes tougher and more obstacles are put in our path. But when we believe, then the rough spots in the road get smoothed out and you can find comfort and peace within yourself that you are truly doing the Lord's work. And by then the hardships that come in our lives from time to time are carefully evened out by prayers. Because only then can we feel God reaching out His hand with love that we can be born again.

God puts a light in His window to guide us on our life's journey. In John 1:5-7; "This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him, yet we walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin" (NIV). Prayers are God's windows to miracles. With out the miracles only He can bestow on us, where would we be?

Psalm 40:5, "O Lord my God, many and many a time you have done great miracles for us and we are ever in your thoughts. Who else can do such glorious things?

No one else can be compared with you. There isn't time to tell of all your wonderful deeds" (TLB).

God shows me the path where I need to

go. Psalm 27:1, "The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?"

I walk in the strength of the Lord, even though doubts fill my mind and my heart. Lord, you give me renewed hope and cheer. You have made my darkness turn to light.

You have blessed me everyday of my life in some new and surprising ways and have guarded me and guided me through every choice or crisis I've faced. With every step I take and every breath I breathe, you are the most important person in my life.

When you get to a bend in the road, God will give you the choice to choose the right path. You must never give up on yourself, because there is a light at the end of the long tunnel. When you are on your knees, and you close your eyes, you may see darkness at first, but soon there will be a guiding light to show you the way, the one bright shining light of love that you can feel right down to your toes. That's all that truly matters in this world we live in, is that "WE LIVE!" We live through the Lord who strengthens us. He gives us the sustenance to breathe life into every thing we do.

Ministry in Action



FREE WILL BAPTIST GRADUATES



Alan Joyner from Free Union Church near Walstonburg, with his family.



Will Faircloth from Robert's Grove Church near Dunn, with his family.



Gina Sutton from Robert's Grove Church near Dunn, with friends.



Heather Tyndall from Christian Chapel Church near Pink Hill, with her family.



Daniel Daughtry from Westside Church in Kinston, with his family.



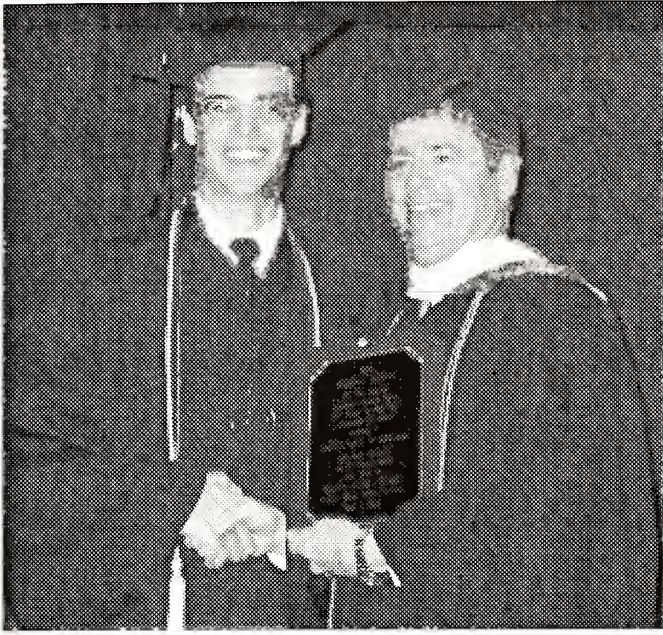
Nathaniel Grubbs from First Church of Plymouth, with his family.

HERE OVER FIFTY YEARS AGO



Virginia Davis, Luna Mae Davis, and Darrell Davis from Davis Church in Carteret County reminisce as they stand with Rose and Burkette Raper at the groundbreaking ceremony held in May for three new buildings being constructed at Mount Olive College. All three of the Davises drove from Carteret County to Mount Olive more than fifty years ago to help clean the condemned elementary school building and get it ready for the College to open that fall. They each stated that they had attended most major events at the College during the past fifty years.

GRUBBS EARNS TOP HONOR AT MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE



Mount Olive College presented the 2005 Martin Award to Nathaniel Grubbs of Elizabeth City at the College's 51st Spring Commencement. The award is given each year in honor of Lorelle F. Martin, Professor Emeritus, who taught science at Mount Olive College from 1957–1987. The award is presented to the baccalaureate graduate who has the highest academic average.

Grubbs was graduated with a bachelor of science degree in biology. He has a 4.0 (A) grade point average. Grubbs is the son of the Rev. Paul and Mrs. Teresa Grubbs, both alumni of Mount Olive College. He attended Northeastern High School and has previously served as chief marshal, and received the Outstanding Student of the Year Award in Science, won Best Research by a Senior, and Most Significant Contribution to the Department of Science and Mathematics, at Mount Olive College Awards Day.

Grubbs is a Nido Qubein Honors Scholarship recipient and was graduated Summa Cum Laude. He is a member of the First Church of Plymouth.

SOME MUSINGS FROM PAM

(Pam Wood, Director of Library Services, has been keeping a diary since preparation began for construction of three new buildings on the Mount Olive College campus. She began writing these thoughts in mid-April prior to the groundbreaking ceremony held on May 4. Ms. Wood entered Mount Olive College in 1966 and returned to the College in 1970 as Assistant Librarian. At the time she entered as a student, the College had only been on the "new campus" for one year and her reflections, caused by the present construction, reveal some of the many changes that have occurred since then.)

April 13—Can you dig it? The invitations to the groundbreaking came last week, with that question on the front—the bold red and gold of the invitation perhaps a reflection of the boldness of the entire building project, three buildings at one time. Even though the groundbreaking is still three weeks away, the rat-a-tat-tat of the air hammers, the beeping of the trucks as they back up, and the slight tremors of the earth from the moving of heavy equipment has already begun.

As I look out my office window this morning every thing is very calm. It's cloudy and the rain that came last night has made the fresh mowed grass look even greener. There are a few students out, most of them heading toward the cafeteria. I can see a construction trailer in the distance, over by College Hall and right outside my window is "the fence": They put it up yesterday, just a typical construction site fence, yet an omen of

things to come. Over the past few weeks, they have built a new parking lot beside the Chapel, complete with curbing and the promise of pavement to come soon. Then we will be parking in it rather than the "temporary" library parking lot. I say temporary because soon after I came to work here (1970) I was told that the parking lot and the "dirt path" out to Bert Martin Road were just temporary. The word "road" signifies something much more developed than the path was. It wasn't wide enough for two cars to pass each other. The section from Laughinghouse Hall out to Bert Martin Road was extremely muddy when it rained. It wasn't unusual for Tony Grady to come with the wrecker to rescue someone whose car was stuck in the mud. That was before cell phones, so the person had to wait for someone to come along or get out and walk in the mud to the library to use a phone to get help. Through the years, more dirt and gravel have been

added to that section and the section from Laughinghouse to the library has been paved but we still have the dirt parking lot. As I drove through the opening in "the fence" this morning, I realized that the "temporary road" is about to come to an end. Any day now a gate will go up across the road and we will begin parking in the new permanent lot. The dictionary defines temporary as limited time. In this case, limited time is about thirty years!

The trees aren't gone yet. The two big oaks out back of the library that have weathered many storms, shaded the side of the parking lot, and provided a quiet place for students to study or sometimes have lunch are still standing, but not for long. The Communications Center will take their place. Sometimes the simple things have to be sacrificed for better things to come.

April 26—They finished the fence today. The North entrance

(Henderson Building side) is closed now. That means we have a book security system at the door where no one can go out. Hopefully the system will be moved tomorrow. Now that the only entrance is on the side where I can see the people go and come, it seems like there is more traffic.

May 2—The maintenance guys took the cherub down today. From its perch in the window ledge above the North entrance, the cherub had watched over our comings and goings. Sometimes the squirrels built nests behind it. Most recently, there was a bird nest there. Fear that vibrations from the construction would cause it to fall made it necessary to remove it—I hope just temporarily.

May 4—The groundbreaking for the three buildings was held this afternoon. There was a large cake in the shape of the Academic Building, lemonade, homemade ice cream, and balloons, which all made for a very festive occasion. The usual speeches, etc. The dignitaries got to turn the shovels of dirt. Everybody was excited.

May 6—The little Dutch boy and girl figurines which had been in the shrubbery at the end of the library have disappeared. I wasn't sure what had happened to them. Today, when I went to the greenhouse to look at flowers for graduation, I discovered

that they have a new home in the little flower garden Carson and the grounds crew have made around the buildings near the greenhouse. They looked right at home there.

May 13—The library parking lot was paved this week. They started late Tuesday afternoon. I looked out and there were 6 guys in orange jackets and one piece of equipment. A little later there were 12 guys and 2 pieces of equipment. Wednesday afternoon they painted the lines. I tried to bribe Ernie Taylor. I offered \$1.00 to get my name painted on one of the parking places. If you walk through the lot, you will see that I don't have my name on a space. I guess my price was too cheap! Friday was the first day to park in the newly paved lot!

Mike Brashear in Information Technology is trying to set up a video camera in Dr. Bailey's office to record the progress and run clips on the web page.

May 16—The big trees out back came down today. It was amazing to watch huge trees taken down so quickly and directed exactly where the workers wanted them to go. Some of the guys from Maintenance, IT, and David Bourgeois, Registrar, came over to watch. Dr. Byrd came by and said to be sure that they didn't get the Japanese Maples on the other side of the building. He had worked out a trade to keep the maples, but he had to give

up the oak on the other side of the building. Oops, they just hit the water main so we have no water in the Library and probably the Henderson Building as well. The fun is just beginning!

May 27—Most of the clearing of the space for the buildings has been completed. They have cleared out a section through the woods to Bert Martin Road. There will be a new road there and another parking lot near the Academic Building. More parking is always good!

Because the Communications Center will attach to the current Library, parts of our building will be considered "construction site" so that means the storage room has to be cleaned out and other things moved. The black cabinet, as we call it, which houses the connections for the library computers to the campus network, had to be moved. Since space is already a problem, moving that one piece of equipment involved moving several other things. The file cabinet had to be moved to make way for the copy machine so the black cabinet could go where the copy machine had been. Nothing is simple anymore. The good thing about all of the moving—the computers and telephones weren't working for a while. It was so peaceful. But then the guys in the IT department got everything up again and we had to come back to the real world.

Mount Olive College Invites You

to pursue a higher education in an atmosphere of Christian values and standards.

The Office of Enrollment at Mount Olive College invites all high school seniors, college transfers, and working adults to look over MOC's educational opportunities.

Visit our web site at <www.moc.edu> for more information
or e-mail us at <admissions@moc.edu> or call (919) 658-7793 or (800) 653-0854.

Please feel free to contact Tim Woodard,
Director of Admissions, at <twoodard@moc.edu> with any questions.



MEETING OTHERS

by Willem van der Plas*Willem van der Plas and Asen Angelou.*

Asen Angelov, the father of Valerie, came to our office for financial support to buy his medicines for hypertension. He had several strokes in the past year and is disabled, unfit for his job as a builder. Asen took a chair near the door, because he did not expect much support from us. He still is a Muslim who ought to be helped by the Hodjah of the Mosque, but from there he cannot expect much compassion. Valerie, who is a member of our church since his childhood, advised his father "to find mercy" from the Christians. He knows that we help every person whose life is in danger, no matter what religion they confess. We understand this as a way of witnessing about the love of Jesus Christ. Tezdzan was still busy with some other people and I tried to talk with Mr. Asen. He was a bit hesitant when he said: "If I would have my retire paycheck I should not come to bother you. I am waiting almost one year to get my first paycheck, while I always paid my contribution on time during all the years I worked, which is forty-two years. May Allah make an end to my suffering soon." The man feels ashamed to ask others for help. What can you say to such a person? He needs rehabilitation. He needs restoration. He needs another hope for the future. When he thanked

us later we told him: "We have received the finances from God's children in North Carolina, thank the Lord for that blessing."

*Bera*

A while later, Bera entered the office and wanted to talk with Tezdzan. The doctors discovered a tumor in her frontal brain, which causes problems with her vision. It needs surgery. She is a special member of the ladies group who married very young and had two children when her husband left her. Everybody knows her story. Bera saw the children getting weak by starvation and could not stand their screaming of hunger; she killed both of them. The courts decision was twenty years in prison. The woman is slightly retarded and she struggles terribly with guilt feelings. Fortunately she married a good husband and received two healthy children, a son and a daughter. Please pray for this woman, that she may receive peace with the Lord about that terrible act of desperation. Pray also for her health, because for one or other reason she refuses to have surgery.

*Ismael and Kenan*

Just after our Bible study and prayer time Ismael and Kenan entered the room. They came from the "Borse," which is the place where employers look for unskilled workers to take a job for one or more days. Day after day there has been no jobs. Kenan is married and Ismael lives with his mother, a widow, who takes care of an orphaned niece. Both young men live in a sorrowful situation. They have been with us from their childhood and learned to pray. They pray daily to be able to work and day after day they hear: "Nyama rabotta," no work. I tried to talk with them about possibilities to begin some kind of activity, which could make them less depending on employers. They are unskilled workers able to do the job of hodman or similar work. We try to find ways to help them with regular work and income to feed their families.

About two years ago they were offered \$30 a day by a small group of intercontinental criminals who were producing porno movies in a tourist center nearby Balchick. Young girls and boys were deceived to become movie stars. For them it was a very high income. Both young men were also approached to work for that scum from the west. Thanks to God

that they realized on time that this was not the way they should follow. Only a few people from "our camp" went to earn some money with these unscrupulous bandits. The Gypsies are always very open and when something is coming up we will know it. We thank the Lord that they share so many life-issues with us. It may seem to be a waste of time, just

to sit and listen, but in this way we are able to discover "together" the right ways to go and to follow the Lord. We need much attention to listen, much care to hear what they want to tell us and open eyes and hearts to shelter them properly in our prayers.

I ask you kindly to keep these

people in your hearts and minds when you pray.

Pray for our young men and young women who want to work and are tempted by evil people take advantage of their situation.

What is their future? They love to work and are not able to find jobs, because of the high unemployment.

RAMOS ARIZPE FREE WILL BAPTIST MISSION

by Antonios Escobar P.

We have continued Evangelism work, and visitation in this neighborhood where the mission has been established. We also have established two regular worship services on Tuesdays and Fridays beginning at 7 P.M. From this work (program) that we are doing, there has been established a group of twenty children of different ages; and we have established a program of studies. They are learning to know the Word of God. These children come from homes which are deeply Catholic where the only thing that they know is idolatry. But we have seen their interest to know and learn the Word of God. These children are the contact to enter their homes, and to speak with their parents. When visiting their homes, we have seen more than twenty pictures on the walls of different images, and altars with different idols and lit candles. I believe that the greatest necessity (need) is to evangelize and preach the Word of God. These lost souls need to know of the love of God, and salvation through (by) the shed blood of Christ on Calvary's cross.

Jesus said: "I have come to seek and to save that which is lost" (Luke 19:10).

Also, we have begun something very important: We have started to gain the confidence and friendship of various homes. They receive us with gladness, although some still have

fears that the Virgin will punish them because this is what they have been taught since their youth.

We are praying and working, trusting that the Word of God will not

return void (empty), but that it would be what the Lord wills.

Your prayers united with ours will help us to see converted souls to the Lord.



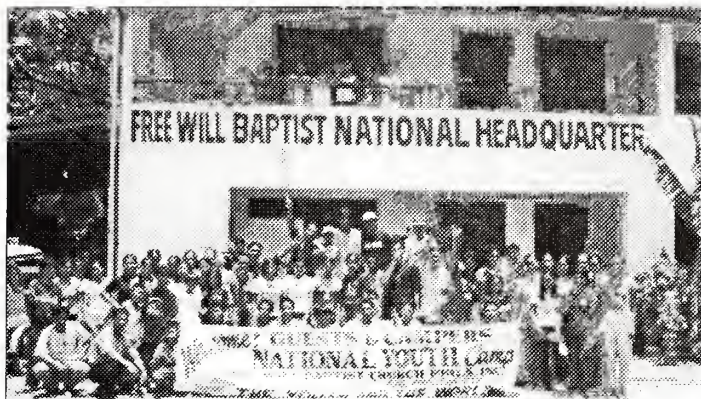
Children looking through Scriptures.



Children singing action song.

SUMMER YOUTH CAMP, PALAWAN, PHILIPPINES

by Nerry Peralta



Campers attending the National Youth Camp.



Campers listening to a lecture.

We are very thankful to God for the success of our Summer Youth Camp held last April 25–30, 2005, at Palawan Bible College campus in Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, Philippines.

It was the National Youth Camp, but we were sad to learn that the North District was unable to participate due to financial restraints. The theme was "The Youth and the World." There were 178 registered campers from the South and Central Districts. The lecturers and speakers challenged the young people concerning their obligation and responsibility to the evangelization of the world.

We had exciting basketball and volleyball games, as well as Bible and parlor games, which were enjoyed by all campers. The campers also competed in singing, drama, and comical skits.

We praise the Lord for our young people. Please join us in prayer for them on a daily basis.

SHORT-TERM TEAM MEXICO SCHEDULE SUMMER 2005



Short-Term Team 2005



Short-Term Team 2005

Five teams will be in Mexico this summer. One team ministered in Pedras Negras, Mexico from June 11–18. Three teams will be in Mexico during July and one in August during the following dates: July 2–9, July 9–16, July 16–23, and August 6–14. Please pray for these teams as they minister to children and adults and participate in several construction projects. Our desire is to be a blessing and an inspiration to the Mexican people.

SHORT-TERM TEAM MINISTRY 2006

If you are interested in joining a team in 2006, you need to contact the Board of Foreign Missions as soon as possible: Phone (252) 746-4963 or P.O. Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513. The dates are as follows: June 17–24 (FULL), June 24–July 1, July 8–15, July 15–22, July 22–29 (FULL), and August 5–13 (camp). **PLEASE NOTE THERE ARE TWO WEEKS THAT ARE ALREADY FULL.**



EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Riverfront Convention Center, New Bern, NC

Friday, August 12, 2005–Saturday, August 13, 2005

Registration fee is \$25 for each day.

If attending both days the fee is \$45.

Bring five people and get the sixth one free.

Bring ten people and get the eleventh and twelfth free.

The Convention Hotel is Hampton Inn of New Bern.



The Reverend Ron Hunter

70 Workshops • Knowledgeable Leaders
Nationally Known • Good Food
Over 30 Exhibitors • Fun and Fellowship

Featured Speaker:
The Reverend Ron Hunter,
General Manager,
Randal House Publications

For further information contact:

Mrs. Mary Dudley, P.O. Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513, (252) 746-4963
<director@ofwbsundayschool.org>

or

Mrs. Angel Lorton, 105 Ann Court, New Bern, NC 28560, (252) 637-7967
<aandj@cox.net>.

BUILD ON THE ROCK THROUGH TEACHING AND LEARNING FOR ALL

It is that time of the year again when the Sunday School Ministry is out and about among Original Free Will Baptists to motivate our workers to build on the rock of Jesus Christ and serve in a greater way than ever before. Remember that Christian Education training can be customized for the local church as needed.

The generalized learning opportunities that have been scheduled thus far are as follows:

Albemarle Conference—Union Chapel OFWB Church, Plymouth, NC—7:00–9:00 P.M.

First Tuesday in each month listed

- June 7, 2005 *What Every Sunday School Teacher Should Know*
- Sept. 6, 2005 *Five Handles for Getting a Grip on Sunday School—Handle 1*
- Oct. 4, 2005 *Five Handles for Getting a Grip on Sunday School—Handles 2–3*
- Nov. 1, 2005 *Five Handles for Getting a Grip on Sunday School—Handles 4–5*
- Jan. 3, 2006 *The Dirt on Learning: Part 1*
- Feb. 7, 2006 *The Dirt on Learning: Part 2*
- Mar. 7, 2006 *The Dirt on Learning: Part 3*
- Apr. 4, 2006 *The Dirt on Learning: Part 4*
- May 3, 2006 *Effective Teaching Techniques*
- June 6, 2006 *Responding to God's Call Through Evangelism*

Central Conference Regional Training—Marlboro OFWB Church, Farmville, NC—7:30–9:30 P.M.

Second Thursday in each month listed

- Sept. 8, 2005 *Utilizing Technology in Sunday School*
- Oct. 13, 2005 *Starting and Maintaining a Sunday School Class With Emphasis on the College and Career Ages (18–25)*
- Nov. 10, 2005 *Utilizing Learning Centers in Sunday School Classrooms*
- Jan. 12, 2006 *Time Management*
- Feb. 9, 2006 *Effective Recruitment—Marketing the Church*
- Mar. 9, 2006 *Five Handles for Getting a Grip on Sunday School—Handle 1*
- Apr. 13, 2006 *Five Handles for Getting a Grip on Sunday School—Handles 2–3*
- May 11, 2006 *Five handles for Getting a Grip on Sunday School—Handles 4–5*

At the following locations, dates and times, there will be two workshops being conducted at the same time. People can choose the one to attend. Each session will begin on a Friday night (7:00–10:00 P.M.) and conclude on Saturday morning (9:00 A.M.–1:00 P.M.). Only light refreshments will be served at each session.

- **Awakening the Sleeping Giant—Maxmizing Sunday School—Led by Mrs. Mary Dudley**
- **Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government—Led by Mr. Ronnie Taylor**

- July 1–2, 2005 Antioch OFWB Church, Goldsboro
- July 29–30, 2005 Lee's Chapel OFWB Church, Dunn
- (Only *Awakening the Sleeping Giant* will be held at this location.)
- Aug. 6, 2005 Mt. Calvary OFWB Church, Clarkton
- (*Awakening the Sleeping Giant* will be led one day from 9:00 A.M.–3:00 P.M.)
- Sept. 9–10, 2005 Faith OFWB Church, Morehead City
- Sept. 16–17, 2005 Whaley's Chapel OFWB Church, Richlands
- Oct. 21–22, 2005 Antioch OFWB Church, New Bern

Special Session at Little Rock OFWB Church, Lucama, NC

- Nov. 4, 2005 7:30–9:30 P.M.—*Understanding the Advent Season*
(Topics include the colors of advent, using the advent wreath, hanging of the greens, and the meaning and function of the Chrismon tree and ornaments.)

Special Teacher's Conference at Little Rock OFWB Church, Lucama, NC

- Nov. 5, 2005 9:00 A.M.–12:00 NOON—Sessions include: Introductin ot Isaiah, Breakout session for every class division to the Sunday School. A look at planning the Sunday School lessons for December 2005 and a "Make and Take" session using Arts and Crafts.

Piedmont Conference To Be Scheduled

Paul Palmer Conference To Be Scheduled

February 25, 2006 65th Annual Sunday School Institute will be held at Mount Olive College. (Please note the change in date.)

*For more information concerning any of the above learning opportunities contact:
Mary Dudley at the Headquarters at (252) 746-4963 or by e-mail at <director@fwbsundayschool.org>.*



85TH FOUNDERS DAY CELEBRATED

On May 21, 2005, friends gathered in Whitley Center to celebrate 85 years of Christian Child Care. The day began with lunch at 12 noon, catered by Bill's Barbecue, Wilson, NC. After lunch, greetings were brought by the Rev. Phillip Boykin, President of the Board of Directors of the Home, as well as from the Rev. Buddy Sasser, Director of Convention Services, representing the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, and Marge Herring Sullivan, President of the Alumni Association. Mr. Sasser presented the Home with a plaque from the Convention, in grateful appreciation of 85 years of dedicated service to the ministry and care of God's children. Mrs. Sullivan acknowledged the alumni who were present.

The message was given by Dr. W. Burkette Raper. His address was based on his experiences while living at the Children's Home, and was inspirational to the current staff and residents as well as the audience. He grabbed the attention of the residents as he spoke of his life and his achievements, achievements that came from determination, hard work, and responsibility.

The Rev. Phillip Boykin called Dr. Bobby Taylor, Children's Home President up on stage to announce the following resolution.

Free Will Baptist Children's Home, Inc.

Resolution of Appreciation

BOBBY RAY TAYLOR

Whereas, Bobby Ray Taylor has rendered more than twenty-two years of commendable service to the Children's Home ministry from December 1982 until the present; and

Whereas, he sought financial support to provide programs designed to help rebuild individual lives and to work toward bringing families together in a positive direction; and

Whereas, on May twenty-first, 2005, the Free Will Baptist Children's Home, meeting in Whitley Center on our campus, will celebrate the eighty-fifth anniversary on Founder's Day;

Therefore Be It Resolved

First, that, in appreciation of the distinguished and dedicated services of Bobby Ray Taylor, the Board of Directors hereby establishes an honorary endowment.

Second, that, the endowment shall be named the Bobby Ray Taylor Endowment Fund.

Third, that, the establishment of this endowment will provide a solid foundation of continual financial support for the future of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home.

Be it further resolved that a copy of this resolution be given to Bobby Ray Taylor as a token of the esteemed members of the Board of Directors.

Done this twenty-first day of May, 2005, By The Board of Directors of The Free Will Baptist Children's Home.

This endowment is an open-ended endeavor in which we are inviting churches, church groups, and individuals to participate. This endowment will help insure the future funding of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home. Dr. Taylor gave closing remarks and expressed his gratitude for this honorary gift and for the many dedicated friends who support the Home by helping keep the Home a reality to the children and families we serve.

CHANGE FOR CHILDREN

May was Children's Home month in Original Free Will Baptist churches, and that provided us the perfect opportunity to introduce new church members to the responsibilities and needs of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home, as well as keeping everyone informed.

The "Change for Children" Campaign is over for this year, and we would like to say thanks to everyone who participated. Many churches used this campaign to increase awareness of the Free Will Baptist Children's Home by getting youth groups, woman's auxiliaries, Sunday Schools, and other church groups involved.

The funds raised in this campaign will help toward the costs that will be incurred during the coming summer months while the children are out of school. Activities will be provided through our recreation program to keep the children active during the summer.

This is your child care ministry, and we appreciate your prayers and the unselfish giving that continues to make us successful in ministering to the children in need who are sent our way.

SUMMER RECREATION

Monday, June 6 was the kickoff date for our summer recreation program. The program was started with a hot dog cook-out and an afternoon of fun and games.

Our summer recreation director, Miss Katie Elliott, is back for a second season. She is a senior enrolled at Barton College, and she is majoring in communications.

Katie has planned several activities for the children here, such as, crafts, games, summer trips, swimming, and swimming lessons.



Miss Katie Elliott



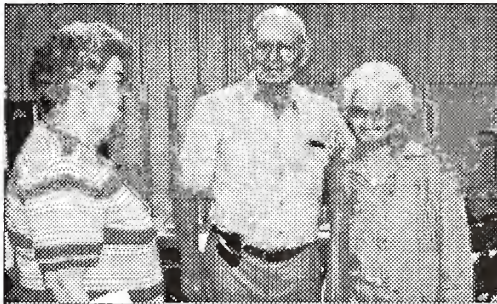
Dr. Bobby Taylor accepting his award.



Dr. Burkette Raper



Summer Recreation Program Kick-off



Founder's Day Celebration



Founder's Day Celebration

CHILDREN'S HOME NEEDS LIST

- Summer Trip Sponsor (\$3000)
- Laundry Detergent & Cleaning Supplies
- Twin Sheets & Twin Comforters
- Vinyl shower Curtain Liners (heavy duty)
- Frying pans (Teflon lined 12 inches or larger)
- Family size patio gas grill
- Electric Clothes Dryer (extra heavy duty)
- 20 cu.ft. Refrigerator with icemaker

59TH ANNUAL HOMECOMING

July 10, 2005—9 A.M.

Guest Speaker:

Mr. Charles Warren, Alumni
Memorial Chapel

2ND ANNUAL PAPER AND CLEANING PRODUCTS DRIVE

for the

Free Will Baptist Children's Home

CAROLINA MUDCATS

vs.

JACKSONVILLE SUNS

July 22, 2005—7:15 P.M.

Fireworks Night

Sponsored by: Spring Branch Church
Layman's League, Walstonburg, NC

For more information, contact Bill Doane.

For Ticket purchases, call:

Carolina Mudcats at (919) 269-2287

STUDY TO SHOW THYSELF APPROVED

by R. B. Spencer

(This article is re-printed from the editorial page of The Free Will Baptist, Wednesday, July 22, 1936 edition.)

"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" [2 Timothy 2:15] was the command of the Apostle Paul to young Timothy. Paul saw the need of study of the word of God. Timothy was a young preacher and needed to study God's words that he might understand better how to divide the truth as found in the Gospel. Paul was a scholar, and he knew what it meant to study, and to be a student in the truest sense of the word.

There is a great need for study today of God's wonderful word that teachers, preachers, missionaries, and in fact, all religious workers may be well prepared to rightly present the truth of the Bible to the people. The Sunday School teacher who has it upon her heart to instruct the children in the plan of salvation and righteousness should make a careful study of each Sunday School lesson before going to the class to teach her pupils. The young preacher will be better understood, and his services as a servant of God will be of greater value and lasting good if he will apply himself diligently to the study of the Bible, and books that will broaden his vision for his great work. To know the truth is to study the truth, and the study of God's word should be a great joy to any servant of God. There is a vast difference between the carefully prepared message and the one that is not prepared to the average congregation or audience.

Each message should contain sufficient spiritual food for those who desire to know God's will toward mankind that they might be filled with joy and meditate upon the riches of God's holy word.

Paul said, "I can do all things through Christ which

strengtheneth me," (Philippians 4:13). The Apostle was thinking in terms of the Gospel, and what it took to carry the Gospel to the people in Asia Minor and to Greece and Rome. His faith and implicit trust in the Son of God gave him the strength to stand up under the hardships and to endure the burdens which he bore that the Gospel might be preached to the Gentiles. Persecutions were great, and ignorance and superstition were in his pathway, but Jesus was Paul's sure Shepherd and constant guide. Paul could "do all things" in Jesus' name. Jesus strengthened Paul when he grew weak; He gave him the assurance that He would not leave him; and the Holy Spirit would be with him.

The same Master will be with the servants of God in carrying the Gospel, and in leading the people to the Son of God, if they will take Him as their true Master, and place their all on the altar for God. Difficulties are easily overcome, and hardships are less burdensome to bear. He who resigns his all to the will of

the Heavenly Father and places his trust in the Saviour to lead, guide, and protect, will endure to the end is our belief.

Paul labored, endured, sacrificed with one purpose in view, and that was to know nothing save Jesus and Him crucified. His one aim was to carry the Gospel and in doing this he endured to the end. He said, "...I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is [now] at hand. ...I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love [his] appearing" (2 Timothy 4:6-8).



**Take time out to reflect on
the sacrifices of our service
men and women from the
past to the present.**

God's Blessings to everyone from the staff
of the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation.



CONVENTION UPDATE: JULY 2005

The 2005 Convention of Original Free Will Baptists saw many new innovations that proved very effective in sharing ministry information with our churches, ministers, and delegates. Over 175 survey forms were deposited at the Convention table and others have since arrived by e-mail and fax. Here's how some of you described this year's session.

SIXTY-THREE MINISTERS RESPONDED WITH COMMENTS SUCH AS THESE:

This Convention was more informative and enjoyable than any I have ever experienced...I will strive to support all the ministries through prayer and finances.

I learned more about our ministries in 30 minutes than in 15 years as a pastor...

This Convention has been the first to breathe a sense of hope into the denomination.

Overall, great experience. Presenters did a great job. Their enthusiasm was excellent.

I did not like this new way because it took away from the closeness of being with our brothers and sisters.

I was happy—no, overjoyed—that we have finally decided that we must focus on bringing people to Christ...Best convention I've seen in years.

SOME OF THE NINETY RESPONDING DELEGATES EXPRESSED THESE FEELINGS:

It was very disappointing to see our ministers not attending sessions, but walking around in pairs in other areas...not setting a good example.

I think that going in groups helped to meet different people. The pastor's choir was just great.

This has been an excellent convention. I like this format very much.

I was impressed by the upbeat enthusiasm of the presenters about their ministries.

Thanks for the guides and the rides.

Thanks to all who had a part in making this an OFWB Convention to be proud of.

The walking was difficult for some, but the small groups gave us a chance to meet new people.

SOME OTHER COMMENTS INCLUDED:

The goal of 10% is great. I challenged our church to gain 20 people per year for the next five years, doubling our Sunday School attendance.

This year was the best ever...everyone did an outstanding job.

The ministry sessions were very informative. I was amazed at the things I did not know and had not heard about our denomination.

The Executive Committee would like to thank everyone for their participation in this year's Convention. Now, from the information let's gain inspiration and determination to win the lost, grow the church, and "Build on This Rock."

For programs to help grow your church, contact the Office of Convention Services, P.O. Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513. You may call (252) 746-4963 or e-mail <buddy@ofwbheadquarters.org> for more information.

JESUS: THE ROCK OF OUR SALVATION

Selected Texts: Matthew 7:24-25,
1 Corinthians 10:4b, Ephesians 2:20-22

Submitted by Ray Wells, Pastor, Marsh Swamp Church

INTRODUCTION: This message could be effectively opened by quoting the first verse of "Rock of Ages" and the first verse of "The Solid Rock."

I. He is the Rock of Our Salvation: 2 Samuel 22:47, Acts 4:12

Acts 4:12 is a clear and concise answer for all those who would come to know Christ. It also negates all other avenues of salvation that are being set forth in today's society. It is only through Jesus that salvation is assured.

II. He is the Rock of Refuge: 1 Peter 5:7, Psalm 32:7

From Elijah to David to Peter we find throughout the Scriptures that God and Jesus have always been a refuge to which we could go in times of trouble. The psalmist declared that God is our refuge and strength. Christ is our strong fortress, a shelter in which we can hide and seek comfort.

III. He is the Rock of Dependability: Hebrews 13:8

In a world that is always changing, the dependable aspect of this world is that Jesus never changes.

IV. He is the Rock of Joy: Psalm 51:12

David wrote in verse 12: "Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation..." One of the things that concerns me most about people who call themselves Christians is that they

PULPIT AIDS



(In an effort to keep our churches focused on the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists' annual theme, the Office of Convention Services is offering a monthly presentation outline to use at your discretion. No credit is necessary and you may add to this outline based upon your needs.)

walk around looking as if they have lost their best friend. Shouldn't we be walking around with joy in our hearts because we have found our best friend? One of my favorite verses in the New Testament is John 10:10b where Jesus says, "I have come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." As Christians we should be joyful in the abundant life that Christ provides.

CONCLUSION: Christ is the foundation stone of our lives. Two questions for you to consider: (1) Is your foundation solid? (2) Is your life built on the solid rock that is Jesus? Only a life built on Jesus the Rock of our Salvation will endure.

Sources: *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*
The Hymnal for Worship and Celebration
Daily Bible Study: Corinthians by William Barclay



AUGUST is HERITAGE MONTH

Attention: PASTORS AND CLERKS

Be looking for your church
information packet coming soon to your mailbox.

**YOUR PRAYERS AND SUPPORT ASSURE THE CONTINUATION
OF QUALITY MINISTRY TO ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS!**

YOUTH CONVENTION

2005 OFWB YOUTH CONVENTION SUMMARY OF WEEKEND ACTIVITIES

by Rita Jones

The 2005 Youth Convention took place at Mount Olive College on Friday, May 13 through Sunday, May 15 with the theme, "Christian Olympics." A sign over center stage had the theme printed on it, and the program books had a colorful interpretation of the rings and the idea of "going for the crown of gold."

Friday began with the decoration committee getting things set up. Churches that had pre-registered for the weekend checked in at the registration table. Convention T-shirts were for sale (some had been pre-purchased). Some of the denominational ministries had tables set up. Over 300 people stayed on campus. All dorm rooms were filled (some were OVERfilled!) with the crowd that came out for the whole weekend. The "Kids Zone" was open in the Murphy Center during the different sessions. There was also an outdoor concession stand with drinks, snacks, and novelties for sale. Whaley's Chapel and the Eastern District did a wonderful job and it was great to have the items available on campus during the weekend.



Praise and worship was led by the group "Consumed."

There was an opening session in College Hall with praise and worship led by the group "Consumed" from the Pee Dee District. Evening devotions were held for each age group at 10 P.M. On Saturday, the proposed slate of officers for 2006 was announced, accepted, seconded, and carried with no other nominations. In a second session, other State talent winners performed.

Fun time on Saturday afternoon featured a dunking booth and various outdoor games. The young people loved the playtime and fellowship. They even got to dunk some special pastors and authority figures!

The young people who had attended the "Kids Zone" with

the Eastern District marched in before the officers to open the Saturday evening session in which state winners were recognized with a certificate. Seven churches were recognized as achieving gold levels of the Elizabeth C. Hansley Outstanding Youth Program Award. Churches are encouraged to participate next year. New officers were installed. Martha Parsons thanked her assistant, Scott Lane, and presented him with a plaque for his service the last couple of years with the youth work.



The youngest group marching around College Hall.

Saturday night was a free time of sports activities on campus. Many played tennis, softball, or volleyball until midnight and lights out. On Sunday, there was an Executive Committee meeting at breakfast and then a worship service in Rodger's Chapel.



Concessions set-up

The new officers will have a planning meeting for next year's convention in August. Watch *The Free Will Baptist* for announcements of next year's theme and the verses for public speaking. Please support your district youth work as well as the state youth program. Plan to take your youth group to Carowinds or Kings Dominion in July or August and get tickets at the reduced price offered by the Youth Convention. Share the offer with other churches or groups—a portion of proceeds from the ticket sales go to the Youth Convention and will help fund next year's activities.

SIXTY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE

Oak Grove Church (Pee Dee) honored Dr. Wade Thomas Jernigan with a celebration of his sixty years in the ministry on April 24, 2005. There were many friends and relatives in attendance. Mr. Jernigan brought the morning message using Scripture from Phillipians 4:13, 19. He stressed the importance of knowing through Christ we can do all things and that He will supply our every need according to His riches in glory.

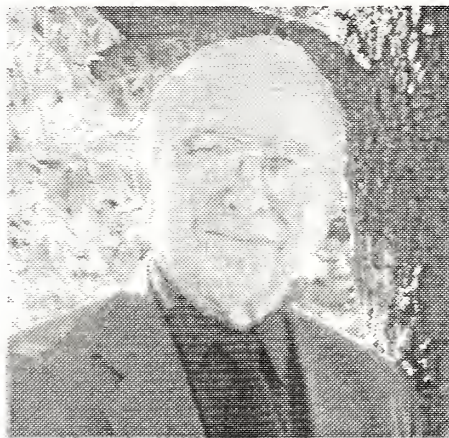
Oak Grove Church presented a plaque to Mr. Jernigan for his sixty years of faithful dedication to his Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

After the morning service a delicious meal was served in the fellowship hall. Everyone had an opportunity to visit and congratulate Brother Jernigan. Many of his classmates and friends were happy to reminisce with him. It was a most enjoyable event.

Mr. Jernigan was born September 15, 1927, to the Rev. Walter and Norma Jernigan in Bladen County, NC. He had six brothers and three sisters. All are deceased with the exception of sister, Huldah Jernigan Kinlaw of Bladenboro, NC and brother, Wilkie Lee Jernigan of Chesapeake, VA.

He was reared in the home of a Free Will Baptist preacher and was under the influence of God's Word all of his life. During his teen years, God began dealing with his heart about preaching. Sunday night, March 25, 1945, at the age of seventeen, he announced his call to preach at his home church, Oak Grove Church, Bladenboro, NC. He was licensed the following Sunday, April 1 and preached his first sermon April 8, 1945 at Oak Grove Church.

Mr. Jernigan fondly remembers that the District Woman's Auxiliary of the Pee Dee Association in North Carolina invited him to preach two weeks after he was called. His subject that day was, "The Master is come and calleth for thee." His first revival was conducted



The Rev. Wade Jernigan

shortly thereafter.

During the summer of the following year, while attending Free Will Baptist Bible College, he conducted seven revivals. From that time he knew that "a strange kind of bug had bitten him" and the effects are evident until this day.

After graduation from Free Will Baptist Bible College, Mr. Jernigan moved to Oklahoma where he met and married Nettie Lou Blair who passed away March 2, 2005. The Jernigans have five girls: Nora, Rhonda, Debe, Verla, and Vicki.

Mr. Jernigan's education includes an English Bible Diploma, BS and BA Degrees, a Master, and a PHD. Five other colleges and universities have conferred honorary doctorate degrees upon him.

He has conducted over 800 revivals, pastored fourteen churches, and served four churches as interim pastor.

His pastorates have included Hurricane Chapel, Tennessee; Spring Hill, Oklahoma; Owl Creek (now Stonewall), Oklahoma; New Home (Berryhill), Oklahoma; Norman First (now Crosspoint), Oklahoma; Modesto First, California; Kerman, California; Guymon, Oklahoma; Jerome, Idaho; Cavanaugh, Arkansas; Way of the Cross, Oklahoma; Asher, Oklahoma;

View of the Cross, Oklahoma; and Crossland, Oklahoma.

Throughout his ministry, Mr. Jernigan has been involved in church pioneering and was instrumental in starting 25 churches.

During sixty years of ministry, he has been widely used in Bible conferences, missions services, youth camps, revivals, and many special preaching services. His preaching has spanned the United States from North Carolina to Hawaii and Texas to Alaska. He has been in most of the Free Will Baptist churches in Old Mexico conducting revivals and other preaching services.

Mr. Jernigan served as Executive Secretary of California Free Will Baptist. He was also the President of California Christian College for nine years.

He was instrumental in helping start Oklahoma Bible College (later to become Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College), as a member of the Christian Education Board at that time and the California Bible Institute (now known as California Christian College). He has authored five books and written twenty-four songs. He has several denominational positions including: General Board, Executive Committee, Home Missions Board, and the Commission of Theological Liberalism.

In Oklahoma, he has served as Moderator of the State Association, member of the Christian Education Board, Hillsdale Board of Trustees, and the State Missions Board. Currently, he is serving as Homiletics professor, and as Public Relations with the Office of Institutional Advancement at Hillsdale Free Will Baptist College.

Mr. Jernigan continues to hold licenses and ordination papers with the Pee Dee Association of Free Will Baptists. He carries none other. He made his way home and on Sunday, April 24, 2005, he celebrated sixty years of ministry.

SMYRNA CHURCH NEWS



Pictured left to right are Smyrna church members Laura Parker and Savak Allen admiring items on the POW/MIA table at the Gold Star social held Sunday, May 22. Laura is a junior member of Banner Unit 109 American Legion Auxiliary and recent runner-up in the Miss South Johnston pageant. Savak is the reigning Miss Benson. Both ladies provided entertainment for the event which is held annually near Memorial Day and honors Gold Star members, which are family members who have lost loved ones while they were serving in the military.



(Left to right): Rufus Jackson, Wayne Moore, Dawson Jackson, Colby Jackson, Crystal Jackson, and Dennis Jackson gather for a picture following a baptism service at Smyrna Church in the Meadow Community. Each of the adults were baptized by the Rev. Billy Nowell and church pastor Richard Whitman. The older Dawson child accepted Christ during the worship service earlier in the day and will be baptized at a later date.



Mothers recognized during Smyrna's Mother's Day service were: Cynthia Sessoms (youngest mother), Susan Raynor (mother with youngest child), Josephine Raynor (mother with the most birthdays), Doris Godwin (mother present who has been a member of the church for the most years), and Kim Parker, Sherri Allen, and Susan Raynor (mothers with most children present at the worship service). Kim, Sherri, and Susan are pictured being presented with the "one" gift. Each of the ladies have three children.



Smyrna Church recently held a baby dedication during the morning worship service. Distany Lynn Sessoms and Braden Ricky Raynor were dedicated in the service in which pastor Richard Whitman charged the parents and the church members with the responsibility of Christian training of the two children. Distany is the daughter of Cynthia and Jim Sessoms and the granddaughter of Robert and Diane Lewis. Braden is the son of Susan and Ricky Raynor and the brother of Nathan and Evan Raynor.

SET FREE BY THE SON

by Rita Jones

As we celebrate July 4th and our country's independence, remember that our most treasured freedom was won for us by the Son of God when He died on the cross to free us from the burden of our sins. We should be thankful for the sacrifice of men and women who give their lives and fortunes for our country, but we should be forever thankful for the gift of salvation that Jesus gave us.

Powhatan celebrated Mother's Day with a Mother-Daughter banquet sponsored by the Woman's Auxiliary on Saturday evening, May 7, 2005. Over 60 ladies were in attendance and photos were taken of family groups. Sister Linda Smith of Trinity (Western District) gave a devotion



Graduates on Senior Recognition Sunday.

and sang a few numbers with her daughters (*The Smith Family* minus the Rev. Roger Hill). Thank you also to a guest trio from Mount Moriah Church in Clayton who performed some classic hymns and a couple of contemporary songs later in the evening. Everyone received a red or white rose corsage for the evening—members and guests alike.

Graduation Sunday was held May 22 with the following Clayton High School seniors honored with a Bible: Daniel Bagley, Brandi Benson, Crystal Guy, Nikki Jones, and Josh Soper. William Cox was recognized with a Children's Bible on his graduation from preschool.

The Cape Fear Union met at Hopewell on May 28. The new format with more worship and music was a hit with most of the crowd. Eighteen churches reported with attendance of just under 60 people. The next meeting of the Union will be July 29 and 30 at Lee's Chapel. Encourage your Sunday School workers to attend since Mary Dudley will be conducting training.

On May 29, Mark Guy was ordained as Powhatan's newest deacon. He currently works with the youth and asked everyone for their prayers.



A group of our younger ladies joined their mothers and/or grandmothers for the annual Mother-Daughter Banquet at Powhatan.

CAMP VANDEMERE

**"O SEND OUT THY LIGHT AND THY TRUTH."
PSALM 43:3 — GOD IS GOOD, ALL THE TIME**

OPEN HOUSE AND SPRING SING/SINGING BY THE RIVER

A great time of music, singing, and fellowship were had during our second Spring Sing and Open House on Saturday, May 21. Approximately 100 people came together to enjoy the messages brought by our special groups that day: Ben Windley and Friends, Juniper 5, Men of Faith, and Servant's Heart. Everyone had the opportunity to tour the camp facilities and grounds, as well as enjoy delicious food and beverages during the day. Thanks to all who had a part in making this annual event a success for the camp this year.

Mark your calendar for our upcoming Singing By the River weekend in August: Friday evening, August 19 and Saturday, August 20. On Friday night we will have For His Glory and Trilogy bringing song and testimony and on Saturday the following groups will be with us: Four in Christ, Second Edition, Called Out, and Moving Up.

SUMMER CAMPS AND RETREATS SCHEDULED

It is not too late to register for the remaining camp weeks that are available this year:

July 4-8	Juniper Chapel Church Retreat
July 10-15	Summer Camp (Director: Eva Mae Clark, (252) 637-5346)
July 16	Camp Reserved
July 18-22	Summer Camp (Director: Berry Hodowanic (252) 249-0133)
July 25-29	Summer Camp (Director: Justin Mosley and Wesley Taylor (252) 745-3171)
Aug. 1-5	Summer Camp (Director: John Thompson, (252) 633-0025)
Aug. 5-7	Peace FWB Church Retreat
Aug. 8-12	Little Rock OFWB Church (The Rev. John Hill (252) 239-1958)
Aug 12-13	White Oak Grove Church Retreat
Aug. 19-20	Singin' By The River
Aug. 26-27	Piney Grove Church Retreat
Sept. 9-10	Boy Scout Weekend

If any group or church would like more information concerning the camp, please contact the Camp Manager, Wesley Taylor. He can be reached at the camp by telephone at (252) 745-3171 or by cell phone at (252) 514-3222. A presentation and slide program are available per request.

TAKE TIME TO PRAY!

by Stacie M. Jones, Guest Writer

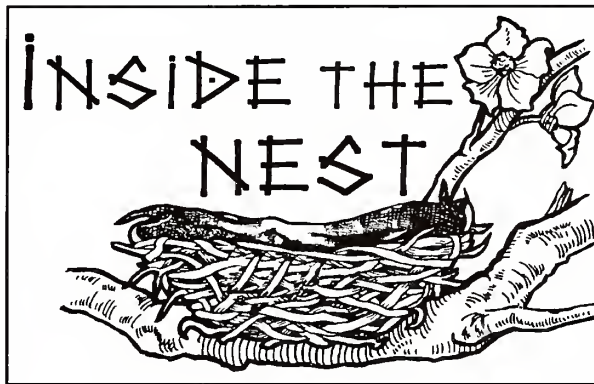
John 3:16 states, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. Now that is love! As a parent, I cannot imagine what a sacrifice that was for God to send His own Son. There are many lessons we can learn as parents—one important lesson is that we can only somewhat begin to realize how much God loves us. Think of how you felt when your child was born, when he or she took those first steps, when he or she first said, "I love you," etc. We could talk forever about how much we love our children. Now with that in mind, think of how much God loves us. He loves us even more than we can fathom loving our children.

I had one of these lessons one day when my daughter, Miller Anne, was about a year old. I was sitting on the floor and she was busy playing with her brother, A. J. Every ten minutes she would stop playing to run and give me the biggest hug. This made me feel that she loved me and that she was saying, "Ahh, you're still here." After Miller did this a couple of times, the thought occurred to me that this is the way God feels when we pray regularly to Him. When we take time out of our busy day to pray we are saying, "God, I love you and I'm glad You are still here with me. When we pray to God each day it has to make Him feel like a proud parent.

There are a lot of things parents and their children may face in the world today that make it so we can't afford not to pray. In a couple of months, I will be sending my oldest son to preschool, and it is scary. I need to be in prayer regularly to prepare for this big step. I know as well as many other parents that this is the first of many steps in my children's life and to prepare them and to prepare me, I need to be fervent in my praying. You wouldn't send your child out into the world without food, clothes, or other protection, so don't send them out in this world without your prayers.

In Ephesians 6:12, Paul states, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." I promise you that if you don't fight for your

children with prayer against this world, the Devil will. So parents, as we send our children out into this world, let's remember to give them a firm foundation in God's Word and remember to pray for them without ceasing. James 5:16b states, "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." God is our Father and He wants us to have a relationship with Him, so do it for your sake and the sake of your children.



VBS

We want your
Vacation Bible School stories.

A portion of the October 2005 edition
of *The Free Will Baptist* will be dedicated
to VBS highlights from our churches.

**The deadline for your
submissions is September 5, 2005.**

PLEASE NOTE

Last month's edition of *The Free Will Baptist*
contained a zip code error in the new address
information for the Reverend Allen B. Bryan.
The correct address is as follows:

The Reverend Allen B. Bryan
402-B Crandell St.
Robersonville, NC 27871

We sincerely apologize for this error.

CAPE FEAR CONFERENCE UNION MEETING AND CHRISTIAN BOARD OF EDUCATION

The next Union Meeting will be held at Lee's Chapel Church, located 6 miles from Dunn, NC on Hwy 421. From Newton Grove take Hwy 13 to Spivey's Corner. Turn right on Hwy 421. The church is 5 miles on right. This Union will be our annual workshop. The workshop will be conducted by Sister Mary Dudley, director of the Sunday School Ministry.

Awakening the Sleeping Giant: Maximizing Your Sunday School

Friday, July 29, 2005 from 7-9 P.M.
and again

Saturday, July 30, 2005 from 9 A.M.-1 P.M.

Lunch will be provided by the Host Church. The Christian Board of Education Committee would like to encourage ALL our churches to participate in this workshop. We are sure you will be able to take home some good information for your Sunday School.

PLEASE BRING YOUR DONATION FOR THE UNION or mail it to: Martha Parsons, 2317 Bayside Drive, Fayetteville, NC 28306.

SEE YOU AT THE WORKSHOP!

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

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SUBMISSION DEADLINE INFORMATION FOR ARTICLES AND ADVERTISING

The deadline for submissions to *The Free Will Baptist* is the 5th day of the month prior to publication. (Example: Items to be published in a January issue must be in no later than the 5th day of December.) You may submit items by any of the following methods:

- E-mail to <editor@fwbpress.com>,
- Fax to (252) 746-9248, Attn: Editor,
- Hand deliver, or
- Mail to: Editor, *The Free Will Baptist*
PO Box 159
Ayden, NC 28513.

***NO PHONE-IN OR HANDWRITTEN INFORMATION WILL BE ACCEPTED! ALL MATERIAL MUST BE TYPED (DOUBLE-SPACED)!**
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Submissions for *Personal Information Changes* will be run for 2 months only.

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The advertising rates listed below are for churches, auxiliary organizations, and individuals. These charges will apply to any announcements, coming event listings, invitations, and registration forms. There is no charge for article submissions. If you have any questions, contact the editor at (800) 849-3927 ext. 227 or by e-mail at <editor@fwbpress.com>.

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Churches & Ministry Positions = \$10

Personal Information Changes = Free

These rates are for first-time runs. Additional consecutive runs are half-price (of equal or lesser size).

The printing of ads is contingent on the availability of space. We reserve the right to condense space as necessary. You will be charged only for the actual size used.

CHURCHES & MINISTRY POSITIONS AVAILABLE

THE REVEREND CHARLES PETIT is available for the following services: pastoral, supply, revivals, or interim work. He may be reached at (919) 553-5741 or by mail at 2014 Penny Lane, Clayton, NC 27520

PLEASANT HILL CHURCH, located at 1071 Gurly Dairy Road in Pikeville, is seeking a pastor. Our church has three services a week. Interested candidates should contact Edward Croom at (919) 242-5180 or Becky Hare at (919) 734-5071.

NEW HAVEN CHURCH, New Bern, is seeking a full-time pastor. Please send resumés to: Jonathan Ipock, 2227 C. Locksley Woods Drive, Greenville, NC 27858 or contact him by phone at (252) 671-1288.

PERSONAL INFORMATION CHANGES

Margaret C. Brown
742 W. Garner Rd., Apt. A-109
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- ☐ **Every Family Plan (\$11.75 each):** The church provides us the names and addresses of every member and we send them to each home. The church is billed quarterly.

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Free Union Church, Spring Hope, NC
Free Union Church, Walstonburg, NC
Fremont Church, Fremont, NC
Friendly Chapel Church, Greensboro, NC
Friendship Church, Farmville, NC
Greater Bethlehem Church, Starke, FL
Grimsley Church, Snow Hill, NC
Gum Swamp Church, Greenville, NC
Harmony Church, Wilson, NC

Harrell's Chapel Church, Snow Hill, NC
Haymount Church, Fayetteville, NC
Hickory Grove Church, Robersonville, NC
Hillsberry Church, Clinton, NC
Holly Springs Woman's Aux., Newport, NC
Hopewell Church, Smithfield, NC
House of Prayer Church, Kernersville, NC
Howell Swamp Church, Walstonburg, NC
Hugo Church, Grifton, NC
Jakim Church, Jakin, GA
Johnston Union Church, Smithfield, NC
Kenly Church, Kenly, NC
Kings Cross Roads Church, Farmville, NC
La Grange Church, La Grange, NC
Lanwood Chapel Church, Smithfield, NC
Lee's Chapel Church, Dunn, NC
Little Creek Church, Ayden, NC
Little Rock Church, Lucama, NC
Living Waters Church, Pikeville, NC
Macedonia Church, Whiteville, NC
Marlboro Church, Farmville, NC
May's Chapel Church, Dudley, NC
Moseley's Creek Church, Dover, NC
Mt. Calvary Church, Clarkton, NC
Mt. Zion Church, Nashville, NC
Mt. Zion Church, Bayboro, NC
New Bethlehem Church, Grantsboro, NC
Northeast Church, Mount Olive, NC
Northern Church, Bahama, NC
Oak Grove Church, Bladenboro, NC
Oak Grove Church, Newton Grove, NC
Ormondsville Church, Ayden, NC
Pearsall Chapel Church, Kenansville, NC
Pilgrim's Home Church, Kinston, NC
Pine Level Church, Pine Level, NC
Piney Grove Church, Greenville, NC
Piney Grove Church, Albertson, NC
Piney Grove Woman's Aux., Kenly, NC
Pleasant Grove Church, Dunn, NC
Pleasant Hill Church, Grimesland, NC
Pleasant Hill Church, Pikeville, NC
Powhatan Church, Clayton, NC
Rains Crossroads Church, Kenly, NC
Reedy Branch Church, Winterville, NC

Robert's Grove Woman's Aux., Dunn, NC
Rock Springs Church, Bailey, NC
Rose Hill Church, Winterville, NC
Rose of Sharon Church, Robersonville, NC
Russell Creek Church, Beaufort, NC
Saint's Delight Church, Ayden, NC
Saint's Delight Church, New Bern, NC
Saratoga Church, Saratoga, NC
Selma Church, Selma, NC
Shady Grove Church, Dunn, NC
Sidney Church, Belhaven, NC
Silver Creek Church, Swansboro, NC
Smith's New Home Church, Deep Run, NC
Smyrna Church, Benson, NC
Sneads Ferry Church, Sneads Ferry, NC
Snow Hill Church, Mount Olive, NC
Spring Branch Church, Walstonburg, NC
Spring Hill Church, Goldsboro, NC
St. Mary's Church, Kenly, NC
St. Mary's Church, New Bern, NC
St. Mary's Grove Church, Benson, NC
St. Paul Church, Newton Grove, NC
Steven's Chapel Church, Benson, NC
Stony Hill Church, Middlesex, NC
Sweet Gum Grove Church, Stokes, NC
Tee's Chapel Church, Smithfield, NC
Union Chapel Church, Middlesex, NC
Union Chapel Church, Plymouth, NC
Unity Church, Wilson, NC
Vandora Springs Church, Garner, NC
Verona Church, Jacksonville, NC
Walnut Creek Church, La Grange, NC
Wardens Grove Church, Lowland, NC
Westside Church, Kinston, NC
Whaley's Chapel Church, Richlands, NC
White Hill Church, Aurora, NC
White Oak Church, Bladenboro, NC
White Oak Church, La Grange, NC
Wildwood Church, Garner, NC
Wintergreen Church, Cove City, NC
Winterville Church, Winterville, NC
Wooten's Chapel Church, Raleigh, NC
Yelverton Grove Church, Smithfield, NC
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THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

A National Weekly Religious Magazine

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29, 1945.

Reprinted August 2005

Are All the Children In?

I think oft times as the night draws nigh
Of an old house on the hill,
Of a yard all wide and blossom-starred
Where the children played at will.
And when the night at last came down
Hushing the merry din,
Mother would look around and ask,
"Are all the children in?"

'Tis many and many a year since then,
And the old house on the hill
No longer echoes to childish feet
And the yard is still, so still.
But I see it all, the shadows creep,
And though many the years have been
Since then, I can hear mother ask,
"Are all the children in?"

I wonder if when the shadows fall
On the last short, earthly day,
When we say good-bye to the world outside,
All tired with our childish play,
When we step out into that Other Land
Where mother so long has been,
Will we hear her ask, just as of old,
"Are all the children in?"

—Florence Jones Hadley.

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THE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST
MONTHLY PLANNER
August 2005



CONVENTION PROMOTION MONTH

Meeting dates and locations are subject to change. You are encouraged to call in advance to confirm meeting schedules.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Eastern Conf. 3rd Union Meeting Foreign Missions Short-Term Team Mission Trip (6th-14th)
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 Camp Vandemere Singin' By The River	20 Camp Vandemere Singin' By The River
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

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The purpose of this paper is to promote the cause of Christ among Original Free Will Baptists, and we reserve the right to refuse any article or news that is inconsistent with our purpose, programs, or policies, and that does not reflect a spirit of harmony and cooperation with the Free Will Baptist Press Foundation and the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. The contents herein do not necessarily reflect the beliefs and policies of the editor or of *The Free Will Baptist*. The responsibility for each article is given the person whose name appears under the title or to the person submitting said article.

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POWER VERSE

If any man have ears to hear, let him hear
(Mark 4:23).

WHEN IS THE RIGHT TIME?

by Darren E. Davenport, Editor

The world seems to be seiged with disaster after disaster. Missing children, sex offenders, kidnappings, shootings, bombings, and so much more dominate the news. And there are all sorts of groups out there trying, relentlessly, to further their "deviant" agendas.

What in the world is going on? Such things as homosexuality and New Age groups have their Hollywood superstars trying to push everything they can on us as we sit back and take it all in. Terrorist activity seems to be ruthless and never-ending.

What happened to the basic family values that used to make up the way it was, and, biblically, the way it's supposed to be? Why are those basic human values

taking a back seat to all of these modern day perversions. Those perversions are not the majority—by far—yet, we are slowly, but surely, allowing the perversions of small groups to take over. What are we thinking?

When is it going to be the right time to voice our disgust and stand up and stand firm for what is right? And, furthermore, we need to get back down on our knees and pray. Pray that God will forgive us for our apathy and give us the strength to stand up for what is right! We CAN do

this. Philippians 4:13 says that "[we] can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth [us]."

When is the right time? Now. When is the right time? Right now. When is the right time? It's got to be now!



TO AVAIL

by C. H. Overman, Editor Emeritus, Guest Writer

A few days ago the word "avail" came to my mind as I thought about life and the fueling of our knowledge and how we reach certain goals—how and why we achieve. This little five-letter word has several meanings, but the one that interests us here is: "To avail oneself of, to take advantage of (an opportunity, etc.) to utilize," (*Webster's New World Dictionary*).

In life there are certain opportunities that present themselves to us. A high school graduate, for example, may wonder how he or she will be able to further his or her education. He or she learns that certain funds are available, or someone offers to help them financially. The opportunity has presented itself and that young person must avail himself or herself of it. The reality is that there are many times when we must utilize an opportunity. It may be launching out into some business venture, or simply resourcing materials in search of knowledge, resulting in our learning about something we knew little about or nothing at all.

I have been an ordained Original Free Will Baptist minister for 53 years. Naturally, when I started out I knew very little about the Bible, our doctrines, our denominational institutions and enterprises, or the structure of our denomination. My first major concern was to increase my knowledge of all these facets of life, and particularly that of ministry. Thus, in January of 1950, I embarked upon a course of study that ulti-

mately led to my graduation from college with a bachelor's degree. It was my opportunity, and I seized upon it. Throughout the years there have been many, many times when I have felt the necessity to avail—to study and learn about something that I knew very little about.

This leads us to the very heart of a matter that has become the concern of many, especially those who are serving our denominational ministries; namely, is there any logical reason for our ignorance regarding

our ministries? There is an abundance of information about each of them. There are ministry directors who stand ready to share that information. The major function of this publication is to inform our people, including our pastors. Many of our

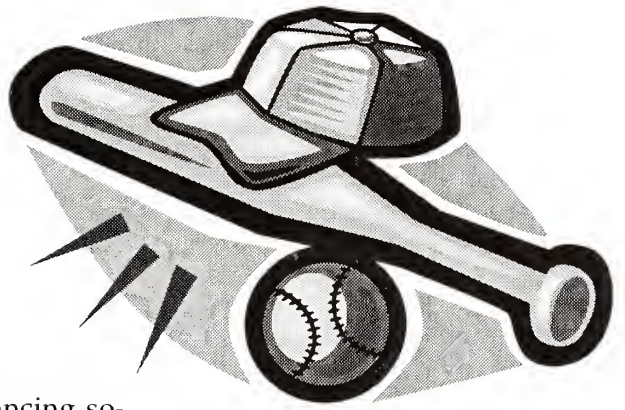
church members have never visited our Children's Home, Mount Olive College, Cragmont, the Free Will Baptist Press, or our Headquarters, where information is available regarding all our ministries.

There is no justifiable reason for lack of knowledge. If we don't know something, we seek to learn. We realize, of course, that one cannot know all things at all times; but we must always be willing and anxious to know, to utilize that which is available to us. This year's Convention was a learning experience for many who attended the ministry workshops. We must remember, however, that such information is always available for those who truly desire "to avail."

Reflections

Church Night at the Ballgame

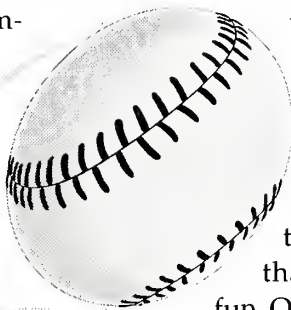
by Elaine Swinson



Inwardly groaning with mental and physical fatigue, I dragged myself out of the car ending the last day of the work week. The lure of my recliner was sending out incredibly strong waves beckoning me to embrace its soft cushions and make adjustments to relieve my aching feet. The mate to my chair was already occupied by the other half of my household, my spouse of 39 years.

Kicking off my shoes and peeling off my panty hose, I crossed the short distance from the door to my chair in record time. Just as I was about to sink into heavenly bliss, my journey was interrupted by a sudden recollection of a promise made days before to our grandchildren. We had made plans to join them in an outing to see the Mudcats baseball team play that evening along with lots of other folks from Little Rock Church.

Oh joy!!! We felt like doing anything but attending a ball game, but we had promised and we would go. I threw a few necessities in a bag and off



we went. The kids showered us with hugs and kisses as we arrived to join the caravan heading toward the stadium. Shrugging off the weariness that had silently wrapped its tentacles around us, we joined in the festivities with as much enthusiasm as we could muster.

While precariously balancing sodas, sandwiches, hotdogs, and French fries, we kept an eye on the kids, climbed the “zillion” stairs, and hunted our marked seats—all without spilling a drop. Miracles do happen every day!

During the top half of the first inning, we managed to eat, drink, and cheer the Mudcats all at once. The bottom half was spent trying to decide what else everyone wanted to satisfy their cravings—popcorn, peanuts, cotton candy, pastries, and candy—the list was endless. Forty-seven dollars worth of goodies later, everyone settled down to watch the game in earnest.

Being a good grandmother I held on tight to one wiggling little boy by his belt to keep him from free falling to the bottom of the grandstand, while granddaddy was kept busy with the other one answering a thousand questions and assuring him that he wouldn’t starve if he didn’t get something else to eat within the next ten minutes.

I haven’t a clue as to why, but suddenly in the midst of the roaring crowd, I realized that we were actually having fun. Our arms went up with the rest, waving back and forth to the beat of the music as we cheered for the “home team.” Our voices could be heard blending with the sometimes off key harmony of the masses singing “Take Me Out to the Ball Game” and chanting phrases that we had not heard since high school.

When the oldest grandchild’s name was drawn to win a prize in the raffle, granddaddy trudged down the stairs to the gift shop to purchase something of equal value for the other grandson whose name wasn’t drawn while I tried to sooth hurt feelings. The appearance of a new ball and bat a short while later, caused dramatic tears to be transformed into a beautiful smile. Once again, life was good.

Soon I was making funny noises with my tongue, jumping up and down, and singing to the top of my voice right along with our grandchildren as the Mudcats steamed toward a victory against the opposing team. We joined the wild clapping and whooping as the pitcher threw the last man out and the game came to a close.

The darkness of the sky suddenly gave way to a spectacular display of color and light as fireworks began to streak through the clouds. Grandchildren and grandparents alike gazed toward the heavens in awe as the panoramic presentation unfolded, only able to utter “oohs” and “aahs” as expressions of their delight.

As we departed from our grandchildren that night, they hugged and kissed us again, putting a seal on a perfect evening. Our tired bodies still craved the comfort of our chairs, but our hearts were filled with the unexplainable happiness that comes from sharing a priceless moment in time with the grandchildren we love so much. ▲

Can The People Of God Make a Difference And If So, How?

by The Reverend Ray Wells, Pastor, Marsh Swamp Church

(This article is part of a two part message delivered at the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists on Thursday, May 19, 2005. The second part of the message was delivered by The Reverend Dr. De Eakes.)

Scripture Text: Psalm 18:1-2,
Matthew 28:18-20

People today are asking Christians, "Does your faith really matter?" Can Jesus really make a difference in a person's life? Do we as Original Free Will Baptists have an answer? Can we as the called out people of God make a difference? My answer to you this morning is, I believe we can. In order to do that, we are going to have to change the way we perceive ourselves and the community in which we live. We have to change the way we approach our calling as children of God.

When I was volunteered for this part on the program, De and I decided just how we were going to approach these questions. I began to think about how I was going to answer the questions of "Can the called-out people of God make a difference? If so, how?"

I realized that was not going to be easy. To stand in front of you, my Original Free Will Baptist family, and suggest how we as individuals and churches can make a difference: I thought about the church that God has led me to pastor and what I would say to them if this was a Sunday morning worship message. I thought about how they would respond. The following suggestions are what I believe we as Original Free Will Baptists as the called-out people of God need to consider if we are going to make a difference.

(1) *A Renewed Commitment*: I have great concern for the level of commitment of our ministers and church members. When we as ministers gather, the topic often turns to church

attendance. In the conversation, the old cliché is often stated that attendance is "up and down": up in the mountains or down at the coast. We make a joke of the fact that attendance is down and it is just an accepted fact. On the pew side, members are more concerned about the length of the sermon than they are about someone accepting Christ. Why have we allowed such thoughts and ideas to invade our churches? Where is our commitment to Christ? Why have we allowed everything else to become more important than the work of the church and its mission? If we really want to make a difference, we need a re-commitment to our calling as the people of God.

(2) *A Willingness to Change*: I know that change is not a widely accepted word in the Original Free Will Baptist Church, but can anyone tell me why? Why do we fear change when our own lives are constantly changing? Let me ask you this. Are you driving the first car you ever had? Are you washing clothes with a wringer washer and hanging the clothes on the line? If you are a farmer, are you still plowing your farm with mules? The answer is more than likely "no" to all those questions. Then why are we so reluctant to change the way some things are done in the church? I know that many people like to state the fact that the Bible says that Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. He never changes, then neither should we. Well, if that is your Scripture to lean on, then why don't we do church the Acts way? Let's take a quick look.

(a) Let the deacons visit the sick and all the church members who for

one reason or another have stopped coming to church. Let the pastor visit those who don't know Christ, let him prepare the sermons and Bible studies. (b) Let the women of the church cook enough food on Saturday night so that everyone who comes to church on Sunday can have something to eat. (c) Let us honestly give ten percent or more of our income to the church. (d) Let everything be done decently and in order; and (e) My favorite—let there be no strife or bickering among you. How many of those do you think are taking place in our churches today?

The command to us is to preach, teach, and make disciples. It is to go into all the world and preach the Gospel. Those commands will never change. The methods we use to fulfill those can and often should be changed. We cannot expect to keep doing the same things over and over and expect different results. We need to take an honest look at our churches and seek ways to improve the methods of sharing the message.

(3) *A Renewed Passion*: Think how we could impact our communities if we were as passionate about sharing Christ as we are when we talk about our favorite sports team or [race-car] driver or our children and grandchildren.

I can remember as a young person at Calvary Original Free Will Baptist Church in Wilson, when people would come down the aisle to give their hearts and lives to Christ, people would be crying, some praying but a few would just stand there, unmoved by it all. Today, in most churches when someone comes forward to accept Christ or to pray at the altar, we

often find ourselves thinking, "I wonder what they have done wrong." Angels rejoice when one who was lost is found. Where is our passion? Jeremiah talked about the fire in his bones. We need to pray that God would rekindle the fire in our bones.

(4) *A Vision for the Lost and Hurting*: Joel 2:13 tells us to *rend* our hearts not our garments. The word *rend* means to tear. In other words to be in anguish. There are people in our communities who need to know Jesus. Will you tell them? There are fami-

lies breaking up, young people who need help. Will we go? The late singer, Ray Charles, sang a song entitled, "It's Crying Time Again." Perhaps in order for us to make a difference, it should be crying time again in our churches, on our knees at the altar, rending our hearts before God and seeking His guidance as we strive to make a difference. Jesus wept over Jerusalem, because they wouldn't listen. We should be weeping over our communities so they will listen.

(5) The last thing I want say is this: *If we as the people of God want to make a difference, we must first be different.* Everything I have said prior to this statement is meaningless if we have not settled the "difference issue." If we have allowed or will allow Christ to make a difference in us, then we can focus less on ourselves and more on the needs of those who are desperately seeking an answer.

Can we make a difference? We certainly can if we have allowed Jesus to make a difference in us. ▲

YFA & AFC Christian Writing Entries

My Faith

by Nikki Jones—YFA, Powhatan Church
(Cape Fear)

(This is the second of two poems that tied for first place in the YFA Christian Writing portion of the Cape Fear Youth Competition.)

God

Is like the air in my tires.
I can't see it but I know it's there.
I depend on it to carry me safely
each day.
If I happen to lose it
Through a slow leak or a sudden
blow-out,
I become completely lost.
I know I can fix it, though,
As long as I am willing to get down
on my knees.

God.

You may not see Him,
But aren't you glad he's there?

"Now faith is the substance of
things hope for, the evidence of
things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1).

God's Creations

by Victoria Parrish—AFC, Bethel
Church (Cape Fear)

(This poem received first place in the
AFC Christian Writing portion of the
Cape Fear Youth Competition.)

God made earth in only six days.

He took His time and
did it His way.

On day one, God said,
"Let there be light."

He separated it
by making day and night.

On day two, God made our sky.
He painted it blue
and put it up high.

On day three, God made land.
It only took one wave of His hand.
He also let the land produce trees.

It must have been
a great sight to see.

On day four,
God made the moon and sun.
He added stars to go with them,
But He wasn't quite done.

On day five,
God put creatures in the ocean.
I bet that caused
a great deal of commotion.

On day six, God's creations were
almost through.

He then made Adam and Eve
And eventually us, too.

JESUS

by Jordan Hardy, Powhatan Church
(Cape Fear)

Joyful
Everlasting Life
Savior
Understanding
Son of God

Each of these words describes *Jesus*.

I am Joyful because
Jesus will give you Everlasting Life,
That is why He is a perfect Savior,
He is understanding of your needs,
That is why He is the Son of God!
His Holy Word says so.
I LOVE JESUS!

Look for more
Christian Writing
entries
in future issues
of
The Free Will Baptist



August Is... *Heritage Month*

For Original Free Will Baptists

Our lasting heritage finds its roots in service to God and His Church. During this month we encourage pastors, Sunday School teachers, youth workers, and other church leaders to build upon this principle of SERVANTHOOD.

When people help people and churches help churches and all ages come together for the common purpose of winning souls to Christ, our Heritage will remain strong and God will be glorified.

August 7—Christian Service Survey Day
August 14—Ministry Fair Day
August 21—Formation and Preparation Day
August 28—Heritage Sunday

JESUS: SON OF GOD, SON OF MAN

(Selected Text: John 1:14–18)

Submitted by The Reverend Harold Swinson

Introduction:

- A. Read John 1:14.
- B. A Newsweek poll asking questions about Christ and His birth yielded the following results:
 1. 67% believe that the entire story of Christmas is historically accurate.
 2. 24% believe the story of Christmas is a theological intervention.
- C. If Jesus had not been born, people believe there would be:
 1. less charity—63%
 2. less kindness—61%
 3. less personal happiness—59%
 4. less tolerance—58%
 5. more war—47%
- D. It does not matter what people believe about the birth of Christ, because it is an historical fact. However, the question is, "What does His birth mean to us?"
 1. **The Word became flesh for us.**
 - A. In John's day there were a lot of opinions going around about who Jesus was.
 - B. John is very clear about Jesus' nature.
 - a. In v. 1, he said, "In the beginning was the Word."
 - b. In v. 14 he says, "...The Word was made flesh."
 - C. It is very interesting that John used the word "flesh" to describe Jesus. In Scripture the word "flesh" can be used in one of two ways. It can mean

PULPIT AIDS



(In an effort to keep our churches focused on the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists' annual theme, the Office of Convention Services is offering a monthly presentation outline to use at your discretion. No credit is necessary and you may add to this outline based upon your needs.)

our carnal, sinful nature as in Romans 8:1, or as Jesus used here... "flesh and bone." His point is clear, Jesus didn't become God. He is, was, and always will be God.

2. But He became a man.

- A. John 3:16
- B. God loved us so much that He gave His only Son.
- C. Jesus loved us so much that He was willing to give up everything to become like us.

3. The Word dwelt with us.

- A. Tabernacled among us.
- B. Encamped...found a dwelling place.

4. The Word brought God's grace to us.

- A. Full of grace.
- B. Grace, highest privilege. It means a gift or favor, and unmerited and undeserved gift or favor.
- C. Not only did Jesus bring God's grace, but he brought the fullness of God's grace.

Conclusion:

- A. Jesus, the Word...became flesh for us, dwelt with us, brought God's glory and grace to us.
- B. He did all of this for one reason...to redeem us.
- C. Jesus is God's Son who became like man, becoming the Son of Man to redeem us.

CONVENTION UPDATE

We've heard a lot lately about growing our churches and our denomination. The goal is simple...2% per year for five years. Pastors and members are scratching their heads, some saying this percentage is too low, while others say it is unreachable. Come on folks, let's face reality. Some of our churches need a real spiritual shot in the soul in order to come out of their tiny shell and return to the Matthew 28 "Great Commission." Winning people to Christ and growing God's Kingdom will do just that. And yes, we do have a simple plan that will guarantee a healthy, vibrant growing church...**if the plan is put into action.** But that will require the combined cooperative efforts of the pulpit and the pew as we truly become "laborers together" for the Kingdom of God. So, what's the plan? Take a look.

WHAT'S THE PLAN?

**10% GROWTH...
2% PER YEAR
FOR FIVE YEARS**

**USE CURRENT ACTIVE
MEMBERSHIP
AS A STARTING POINT**

REPLENISH THE MOVERS

WHAT'S THE PLAN?

PERSONAL WITNESSING

- ☐ 1-on-1 SHARING THE GOSPEL
- ☐ EACH ONE REACH ONE
- ☐ JESUS VIDEO PROJECT
- ☐ INVITING A FRIEND TO CHURCH
- ☐ SHARING A GOSPEL TRACT

WHAT'S THE PLAN? MEMBERSHIP CLASSES THAT TEACH THE FOLLOWING:

- ▶ The Meaning of Salvation
(What does it mean
to be a Christian?)
- ▶ The Importance of Church Membership
- ▶ OFWB History, Doctrine, and Government
- ▶ The Church Covenant
- ▶ Support of OFWB Ministries
(Including the Convention Office)

WHAT'S THE PLAN? DENOMINATIONAL PARTICIPATION

- ✓ The Local Congregation
(*Articles of Faith*, pg. 66)
- ✓ Representation by Delegation
(1 per 100)
Annual Conference
(*Articles of Faith*, pg. 77)
The Annual Convention
(*Articles of Faith*, pg. 77)
- ✓ Financial Support
(*Articles of Faith*, pg. 77)
ALL 11 Denominational Ministries

WHAT'S THE PLAN? INFORMATION SHARING SEND US YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESSES <buddy@ofwbheadquarters.org>

and
Tell us about your...
Salvations, Baptisms,
Revivals, Homecomings, Festivals,
New Ministers, Concerts, Prayer Requests,
Special Needs, Bible Schools, Holiday Programs

**SO WE CAN SHARE
YOUR BLESSINGS WITH OTHERS**

CHURCHES >>>> CHURCHES
↓ HELPING ↑
CHURCHES <<<< CHURCHES

- (1) Find your strengths.
- (2) Develop your plan.
- (3) Form your team.
- (4) Delegate according to ability.
- (5) Practice your part.
- (6) Inform the Headquarters.
- (7) Be ready to assist.

HELP IS ON THE WAY!!

- ☐ Sunday School Growth, Bible School
- ☐ Visitation Programs, Community Outreach
- ☐ Training Seminars for Ushers, Greeters, Deacons, Nursery Workers, Teachers, etc.
- ☐ Puppet and Drama Ministries
- ☐ Finance, Insurance, and Retirement Options
- ☐ Vacation and Retreat Planning

HELP IS ON THE WAY!!

- ☐ Qualified teachers and trainers ready to assist your church.
- ☐ Sessions that can be catered to fit your schedule.
- ☐ All programs are available at little or no cost to your church
- ☐ A Church Ministry Resources Team is available to assist your church at its recognized point of need.

Want to know more? Contact your Convention Services Office at
(252) 746-4963 or e-mail <buddy@ofwbheadquarters.org>.

We would be honored to come to your church and share the plan in its entirety.
We are here to serve you and help your church enjoy its role in growing God's Kingdom.

PRAISE REPORTS FROM ACROSS THE DENOMINATION:

First Church, Warsaw, NC—Pastor Ed Gonzalez—2 baptized on June 27.

Lee's Chapel Church, Dunn, NC—Pastor Ricky Warren—21 new members, 17 baptized from January to June 2005.

Pleasant Grove Church, Pikeville, NC—Pastor Barry Stallings—As of June 26, baptisms for 2005 totaled 23. Also TV and Radio programs are up and running weekly.

Daniels Chapel Church, Wilson, NC—Pastors Johnny Sullivan and Walt Tyndall—10 baptisms in July brings their total since January to 21 baptisms and 33 new members.

As one pastor said, "God is good in spite of us!" Let's keep the praise flowing and the reports coming. Send us your good news before the 5th of each month and we'll keep telling everyone about God's blessings. Our address is <buddy@ofwbheadquarters.org>.

10th ANNUAL Convention Golf Fellowship

Sponsored By The
Convention of
Original Free Will Baptist Churches

Want to play
FREE?
Call for info.
(252) 746-4963



THREE DIVISIONS

Junior (thru age 49), Senior (50-59), Super Senior (60 & above)

Closest to the Pin #10 (All Competitors)

Long Drive (Each division)

New Car for the First Hole in One (#12)

\$10,000 Putt

NEW DAY

Monday, September 19, 2005

NEW TIME

1 P.M. Shotgun Start

NEW LOCATION

Wedgewood Country Club

Wilson, NC

Business Owners
Churches, Youth
Groups, Auxiliaries...

Find out how you
Can be a part
Of this
Exciting Annual Event.
Call (252) 746-4963

**ENTRY FEES:

(Includes cart, gift bag, burger and dog supper)

Option 1...\$50 (includes all the above)

Option 2...\$55 (includes option 1 plus 1 mulligan)

Option 3...\$60 (includes option 1 plus 2 mulligans and 1 red bomb)

Option 4...\$65 (includes option 3 plus entry into the \$10,000 putting contest)

****Entry Fees are Per Person—Format is 4-man Superball**

All entrants submitting fees to the address below by September 9, 2005

will receive an additional bonus at the tournament.

Complete the following entry form and return along with entry fee by September 9, 2005 to:

OFWB Golf Fellowship, P.O. Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513...Attention Buddy Sasser

Make checks payable to "OFWB Convention"

(IMPORTANT NOTE: All players must complete separate entry forms.

Print this form and make as many copies as necessary. Send all forms and fees together, if possible)

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Your e-mail address _____

Your Playing Division: ____ Junior ____ Senior ____ Super Senior

Option Chosen: ____ #1 (\$50) ____ #2 (\$55) ____ #3 (\$60) ____ #4 (\$65)

Names of Team Members: _____



RACHEL'S JOURNAL



Hey everyone!

For some reason it seems impossible to write about the last week in Mexico when I'm there. Instead, I always want to spend every second talking and laughing with our Mexican brothers and sisters! So I'm at home again trying to remember all of the details.

The last team worked at Emmanuel FWB Church which is Lalo's church. The kids at this church had been working really hard all summer to raise money to pay for the snacks at Vacation Bible School and for a small pin and artificial rose for each team member. The children dressed up in costumes from different countries to present a special song about sharing the Gospel with all the children of the world. At the end of the service, they called up the entire team to welcome us to their church (which is when they gave us the roses and pins).

Bety came to visit us one afternoon to see Ms. Sandra and a few other team members, and while she was there, she gave us an update from the week before. One afternoon during the women's Bible study, they had a special prayer time. A mom told about her little boy's kidney problems and that he had been undergoing treatment for almost a year. She asked for prayer because they were going back to the doctor the next day. Bety followed up with the mom and she found out that the boy was completely healed. This opened the door for Bety to share the Gospel and the woman accepted Christ.

We also saw some of the destruction from the flood. It was almost unimaginable to me that the river could rise high enough to cover the entire neighborhood from the deep ravine

at the end of the street. I still can't believe that one person failing to be on watch caused the loss of life of so many people. We as Christians are to be watchmen as well. Don't fall down

on this...God will speak through us as heralds of His Good News!

Another story that really touched my life was a little boy named

(Continued on next page)



Children of the Emmanuel FWB Church singing a special song.



Team members painting the Ebenezer Church, Piedras Negras, Mexico.



Constructing a parsonage at the Ebenezer Church.



Ebenezer Church



Parsonage almost finished.

Christian. He's been praying and asking his mom to come to church with him for years because "she needs Jesus." We were supposed to pick her up on Monday, but we weren't aware of that, however, on Tuesday we drove across town to pick her up and (we thought) a few other ladies. She wasn't ready because she didn't think we were really coming and none of the other ladies were there either. As we waited for her to come out, Ms. Sandra and I both couldn't figure out why we were taking so much time to pick up just one lady. Let me tell you that the Lord answered us very quickly! That afternoon she heard the message and began to cry. She said she'd never felt this much love and joy and she

wanted to know how she could have it, too. Wow...what we thought was a waste of time was God drawing this lady into His Kingdom. I'm so thankful that God doesn't look at me and think I'm a waste of time when I take too long to see how He's working and changing me.

The men continued to work on the church and parsonage at Ebenezer throughout the week. It was one of the whitest buildings I've ever seen. Several of them learned the value of a hard day's work and that it is important to pace yourself if you want to have more than one hard day's work in one week!

I can't believe the summer is over, and I'll be starting back to work in a few short days. It's been almost ten

years since the first time I visited Mexico. As I go through this year, many changes will take place and the work God has for me will begin to change as well! Please pray that Chris and I are sensitive to God's leading as we seek His will for our life together.

"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."—Philippians 1:3–6.

*Love Always,
Rachel*

PRAYER REQUEST—BULGARIA

by Kosta Ivanov



Pastor Kosta preaching at Targoviste.

We thank the Lord for His blessings and mercy that we may serve Him to our utmost. I thank each and every one of you for your faithful support to our Church and missions. Through this writing I would like to share with you some matters, which took place in Targoviste recently. Both good and very unpleasant things are happening in our ministry, though we are not defeated.

We began to serve in our ministry at Targoviste 14 years ago. Our policy was to meet in small home churches as assembly points of evangelism. We have reached out with Bible studies and prayer meetings to about 800

persons in the quarter "Malchev" which has a total population of 4000 people. Many of these people accepted Jesus Christ as personal Savior and were baptized by immersion in water.

At this moment we meet with 37 children from 5–12 years old, 15 teenagers, 12–19 years old and 52 adults who are 20 years and older. All these people are coming together regularly several times per week for worship and prayer.

About two months ago on a Thursday evening, I was preaching to 15 members. I could not concentrate well because all kinds of thoughts flashed through my mind: "Where are the people? Did I offend somebody? Are my messages boring? Do I spend enough time after the worship services with the people?" It bothered me so much that I had to ask the present members: "Brothers, sisters where are all the others?"

The answer was: "Many of the people from our quarter are leaving Bulgaria. They travel by vans to France and Italy." "Do they work there?" "No, they are begging, when they have begged enough money to pay

for the 'micro bus' the bus can return to Bulgaria to pick up another load of people. Husbands and wives are going together and these parents leave their children at home."

Those children have nobody to lead and to control them and they stop going to school. They misuse the money that their parents send by post-orders, have started their night-life and do not come to the church anymore. Their behavior has become very violent by hindering the others who wish to attend the church meetings, by robbing the food and equipment out of our cars during the worship time. Sometimes they really made me angry. But...when I think about the love, the mercy, and the suffering of our good Lord, I am ashamed of such anger. Then I feel again the strength to go into the battle against all that evil. Then I realize that we shall not go for the easy ways but that I have been placed in the struggle of Christian service into an evil world. Then I realize that you pray for us. Your prayers give me strength to come every time back to my faith in Jesus Christ. Through your prayers He blesses us and protects us in our holy service.

CHILDREN'S HOME—CEBU, PHILIPPINES

by Harold Jones



Harold Jones with children at Risen Lord Christian School in Cebu City, Philippines.



Ice cream party.

In 2001, we opened a Children's Home for the street children in the Philippines. These are children who have been abandoned and live alone or in groups on the streets of Cebu City. We received children ranging from 3 to 6 years of age. They were in poor health and malnourished. Their health has been restored and they have been taught the truth of Christ. They are lovely, sweet, children. Presently, there are ten children in our care. The youngest is a 4-month-old girl named Sheena Mae Dominguez. She was placed in our Home in June.

Brother and Sister Perocillo were extremely gracious to allow us to use a house they own in Cebu City, at no charge, to start the Children's Home. We praise the Lord for this. The government has worked with us over the years, but now they have told us that we must provide an adequate home for the children and be willing to receive a total of twenty to twenty-five children. They have given us six months to build a new house or they will revoke our licenses and take the children away. This would break the children's hearts as well as ours.

I visited the children in April of this year and had a great time with them. One afternoon we had an ice cream party which they really enjoyed. I cannot imagine what our ministry in the Philippines would be like if we lose these children.

Please contact the Board of Foreign Missions for specific information about this need at (252) 746-4963.

SHORT-TERM TEAM 2006

**If you are considering joining
a Short-Term Team to Mexico in 2006,
you need to contact the
Foreign Missions office immediately at (252) 746-4963.
Three of the weeks are already full.**



WEBSITE CHANGES



We've updated our Web site to include some new features that will enable us to keep the information on our website more up-to-date. Some of the new features will include a counter to let us know how many people are visiting our site and, possibly an Alumni News page, a Needs List page, and the capability of posting upcoming events on a calendar, and including pictures. Also, the new site will be a good source for us to publish newsletter articles and other events and needs of the Home.

We're excited about our new site, and we invite you to visit us at: <www.fwbchildrenshome.org>.

BACK TO SCHOOL



School will start back in early August, and with the start of school, comes the added expenses of new clothes, new shoes, book bags, and other school supplies. We strive to send our kids to school in nice clothing, and with the necessary supplies, so they don't stand out as being "the kids from the Children's Home." It is difficult and

somewhat embarrassing for them to explain to their peers why they are living at the Children's Home instead of with their parents.

During the summer months, donations are slower coming in, probably due to family vacations and family activities. We would like to invite you to help us prepare our kids for school by sending your donation to the Home.

We appreciate your continued prayers and support.

CAMPUS VISITS



On June 18, 60 motorcyclists rolled onto campus. They were members of several Christian motorcycle groups (Bikers for Christ, Guardians of the Cross, Crusaders for Christ, and others) from North Carolina. For the past couple of years, the motorcyclists

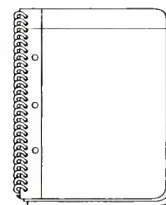
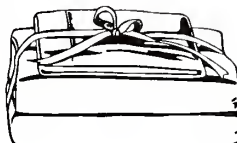
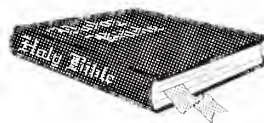
have come to campus on Father's Day weekend, to share with the residents of the Home. The residents enjoy the motorcycle rides, the cookout, and other activities. After the cookout and games, we all assembled in Whitley Center for a presentation by "Tha MC2C," a Christian rapper from Zebulon, NC, and "Line of Fire," a group from Raleigh.

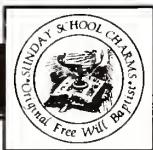
After a day of Christian testimony and fellowship, the activities came to a close, with the residents of the Home already planning what motorcycle they want to ride next time.



NEEDS LIST

Canvas Camp Chairs (40)
Extreme Teen Bibles
Laundry Detergent & Fabric Softener
School Supplies
Backpacks for high school students
5-Subject Composition Books
Construction Paper
Poster Board
Markers and Highlighters
**Due to Large on-hand supply, please,
NO Wooden Pencils or Notebook Paper**
Summer Trip Sponsor (\$3000)
Twin Sheets & Twin Comforters





EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CONFERENCE

Riverfront Convention Center, New Bern, NC

Friday, August 12, 2005–Saturday, August 13, 2005

Registration fee is \$25 for each day.

If attending both days the fee is \$45.

Bring five people and get the sixth one free.

Bring ten people and get the eleventh and twelfth free.

The Convention Hotel is Hampton Inn of New Bern.



The Reverend Ron Hunter

70 Workshops • Knowledgeable Leaders
Nationally Known • Good Food
Over 30 Exhibitors • Fun and Fellowship

Featured Speaker:
The Reverend Ron Hunter,
General Manager,
Randal House Publications

For further information contact:

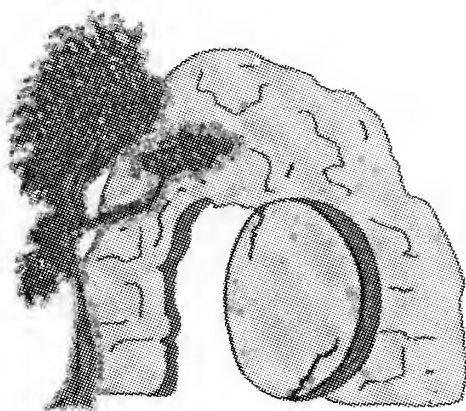
Mrs. Mary Dudley, P.O. Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513, (252) 746-4963
<director@ofwbsundayschool.org>

or

Mrs. Angel Lorton, 105 Ann Court, New Bern, NC 28560, (252) 637-7967
<aandj@cox.net>.

EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA CHRISTIAN EDUCATION TRAINING CONFERENCE (Coastal MACEA)

LIFE "Learning Is For Everyone" "New Life in Christ"



"Catch the vision of new life in a resurrected Lord!"



*"For whoso findeth me
findeth life, and shall
obtain favour of the LORD"
(Proverbs 8:35).*

70 Workshops (General Categories)

- | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| * Administration | * Young Adult Classes | * Using Arts and Crafts |
| * General Knowledge | * Adult Classes | * Puppet Ministry |
| * Pastor's Classes | * Disaster Ministry | * Retreat Planning |
| * Preschool Classes | * Children's Church | * Wedding Preparation |
| * Early Elementary Classes | * Lesson Preparation | * Home Schooling |
| * Elementary Classes | * Disability Ministry | * Music Ministry |
| * Upper Elementary Classes | * Women's Ministry | * Discipleship |
| * Teen Ministry | * Marketing the Church | * Nursing Home Ministry |
-

Registration Fee: Friday, August 12, 2005—\$25; Saturday, August 13, 2005,\$25 (Both days—\$45)

Please mail registrations by August 8, 2005. Walk-ins are more than welcome. Meals included in the registration fee. If your church brings 5 people, the 6th one will be free. If your church brings 10 people, the 11th and 12th ones are free. **However, if you are not pre-registered by Monday, August 8, 2005, you will be responsible for your own meals.** CEU Credit will be granted for Daycare workers. Certificates will be available for \$1. Exhibits will be open: Friday: 12:30–9:10 P.M.; Saturday: 7:30 A.M.–5 P.M.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Church _____

Church Address _____

(City)

(State)

(Zip Code)

(E-mail)



CRAGMONT ASSEMBLY

2
Day

TRACTOR/TRUCK PULL PULLING FOR KIDS

Sponsored By Cragmont Assembly, Inc. &
Bethel OFWB Men's Fellowship
"Christian Camping In The Blue Ridge Mountains"

Friday, August 5

Mini Pull

7:00 P.M.

Hot Rod & Stock
Lawn Mowers



Pulled by:
Neuse Mini
Tractor Pulling Assoc.

2
0
0
5

Saturday, August 6

12:00 P.M.

Antique Tractors
Farm (Smokers) Super,
Turbo, V-8 Modified



Pulled by:
Carolina
Antique Tractor Pulling

KIDDIE PULL BOTH DAYS (Ages 4-8)

ALL PROCEEDS GO TOWARD A NEW CAMPER'S LODGE

Four Oaks Pulling Track

659 Tettersville Road, Four Oaks, NC

(Take I-95 to Exit 87 Four Oaks to Hockaday Rd., 2 miles to Tettersville Rd.
Turn right 1 mile, Track on Left, Shade Trees for Everyone At the Track)

ADULT ADMISSION \$7 • CHILDREN (4-12) \$4

NO ALCOHOL, DRUGS, OR PROFANITY ALLOWED

FOR INFO. CALL: JIM BEST (919) 796-2775 or

BRYANT HINES (252) 637-7171 or (252) 670-8424



ENROLLMENT DATES TO REMEMBER

August 2

Mount Olive Evening—Heritage Plus
New Bern—Heritage Cohort
Research Triangle Park (RTP)—Heritage Cohort

August 8

Wilmington—Management and Organizational
Development (MOD) Cohort

August 1–August 12

Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, Goldsboro (SJAfB)—
Fall Registration

August 15–October 7

Fall I Term at SJAfB begins

August 17

New Bern—MOD Cohort
RTP—MOD Cohort

August 18

Wilmington—Heritage Cohort

August 30

Mount Olive Evening—MOD Cohort
Wilmington—Early Childhood Education (ECE)—
Cohort

September 29

Wilmington—MOD Cohort

For Traditional Students At Mount Olive

August 21

Traditional Freshmen Arrive

August 23

Registration Verification

August 24

Traditional Classes Begin

August 30

Fall Convocation

2005 PLANNING SESSIONS FOR MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE DINNERS

Below is a schedule of Planning Sessions for the annual Mount Olive College dinners held each fall. Jean F. Ackiss, coordinator of the dinners, encourages representatives and the pastor from each church to attend the meeting in their county. Important information will be shared at each meeting regarding the work of the College and final plans will be made for the dinner.

GREENE COUNTY—Thursday, August 11, 7:30 p.m., Hull Road Church near Snow Hill.

BEAUFORT COUNTY—Friday, August 12, 7:30 p.m., Memorial Church near Chocowinity.

NASH COUNTY—Sunday, August 14, 3 p.m., Free Union Church near Spring Hope.

LENOIR COUNTY—Monday, August 15, 7:30 p.m., First Church of Kinston.

EDGEcombe COUNTY—Tuesday, August 16, 7 p.m., Peace Church, Pinetops.

WAYNE COUNTY—Thursday, August 18, 7:30 p.m., First Church of Goldsboro.

PEE DEE ASSOCIATION—Friday, August 19, 7:30 p.m., Beaverdam Church near Chadbourne.

PAMLICO COUNTY—Sunday, August 21, 3 p.m., Rock of Zion Church, Grantsboro.

DUPLIN COUNTY—Monday, August 22, 7:30 p.m., Cabin Church near Beulaville.

PITT COUNTY—Tuesday, August 23, 7:30 p.m., Reedy Branch Church near Winterville.

WASHINGTON, MARTIN, TYRRELL, AND PASQUOTANK COUNTIES—Thursday, August 25, 7:30 p.m., Mount Tabor Church near Creswell.

ONSLOW-BRUNSWICK COUNTIES—Friday, August 26, 7 p.m., Folkstone Church, Folkstone.

JONES COUNTY—Sunday, August 28, 3 p.m., Friendship Church near Trenton.

WILSON COUNTY—Monday, August 29, 7:30 p.m., Daniel's Chapel Church near Wilson.

CRAVEN COUNTY—Thursday, September 1, 7:30 p.m., Saint Mary's Church Administrative Building, New Bern.

CARTERET COUNTY—Friday, September 2, 7:30 p.m., Crab Point Church, Morehead City.

JOHNSTON-WAKE COUNTIES—Tuesday, September 6, 7:30 p.m., First Church of Smithfield.

SAMPSON, HARNETT, AND CUMBERLAND COUNTIES—Thursday, September 8, 7:30 p.m., Oak Grove Church near Newton Grove.

CONSTRUCTION PROGRESS ON SCHEDULE



Progress appears to be moving well on the three buildings under construction at Mount Olive College. As of June 21, the foundation for the Wellness Center has been completed and the cinder block walls are under construction to the point that the rooms are becoming visible. The sites for the other two buildings required more work; sewer and water pipe rerouting, excavation of loose soil, installation of storm water drainage pipes, and digging out a driveway to Bert Martin Road. The final steps are underway on these sites to allow the pouring of the concrete foundations.

A matter of great importance is that the contractor says the plans to meet the scheduled July 1, 2006 completion date for the Communications Center and the Academic Complex (Raper Hall), and the September 1, 2006 date for the Wellness Center are on schedule.

GROWING TO SERVE YOU

Mount Olive College plans to open its sixth location which will be in the Washington, NC, area as early as October. According to Dr. Byrd, the College is nearing closure on a site located on Highway 264, west of Washington in Beaufort County. If all goes well, renovations to the facility are expected to be complete by October 1, he noted.

Work is also underway to recruit the initial four staff members which are to include a location director, site administrator, assessment counselor and a program representative. Byrd anticipates the staff for the Washington location will double to more than eight employees within two years.

Julia Pacilli, program representative for the New Bern location is currently recruiting students for the first cohort start in Washington. Depending upon demand, the cohort will either be the Heritage Program or the Management and Organizational Development (MOD) Program. However, once fully operational, the Washington site will offer all of the same non-traditional programs that are available in New Bern, Research Triangle Park, Wilmington and Mount Olive evening college.

Our initial research in the northeast region has indicated a strong interest among local residents for Mount Olive College to bring educational services to this part of our state. We expect that this venture will be important to Mount Olive College and the people of northeast North Carolina. The blend of services that we can provide will augment other educational opportunities available in this region, Byrd concluded.

With six locations in eastern North Carolina, Mount Olive College is located in the heart of where Free Will Baptists are located.

ADMISSIONS STAFF



The Mount Olive College Admissions Staff are proud to serve you. Back row (l-r): Tim Woodard, Heather Turlington, Russell Royal, and Vickie Robinson. Middle Row (l-r): Dana Combs, Jamie Massengill, and Jennifer Merritt. Front Row: Trista Locklear.

There are still limited openings for freshmen and transfer students for the fall semester. Check our website: <www.moc.edu> for more information.

TINA PENNY ANSWERS GOD'S CALL



Tina Penny is a devoted wife and mother who has felt God's calling on her life. It's not to the overseas mission field but to the youth in our own nation.

Born in Greenville and growing up in Bath, Tina graduated from Bath High School in 1987. After attending a couple of other institutions she finally

found her place at Mount Olive College. Taking the fundamental classes for a religion major, Tina feels very strongly that ministry is her mission and has decided to minor in sociology.

The skills and knowledge that are taught at Mount Olive College have benefited her as she takes part in numerous church activities. Tina teaches adult Sunday School, participates in the Vacation Bible School events, serves on the children's and foreign missions committees, sings in the choir, and is a member of the Woman's Auxiliary.

Tina has already spent years pouring her life into the Original Free Will Baptist churches and she is an integral part of Johnston Union in Smithfield where she has been a member for over four years. Recently, she accepted a position as Youth Minister at Shady Grove Church in Sampson County where she feels she can put into practice all of her college education as she follows God's calling.

"It is important that I attend a college that is affiliated with my church since it supports what we as a denomination are based upon: building a future for each of us and reaching out to those who want a better education in a Christian setting." She also expressed appreciation to her fellow church members and pastor who have supported her.

Another reason for attending Mount Olive College was

the fact that her parents met and married while attending Mount Olive College. Jimmy and Winnifred Averett Webster met and fell in love during their semesters at Mount Olive College in 1964. It was only a matter of time before the inspiration of Mount Olive College was to become a part of their daughter's life.

Tina enrolled in 2005 as a sophomore and her expected graduation date is 2007. Upon graduating, Tina aspires to continue her education at Campbell University Divinity School to obtain her master's degree in campus and pastoral ministries.

Tina is the granddaughter of the late Oscar Webster, a very active layman in the Free Will Baptist Church and in the Albemarle Conference, and Mrs. Laura Webster, member of Trinity Church and Mount Olive College Dinner Chair for her church. The Oscar Webster Family Scholarship Endowment provides an annual scholarship to a student from Beaufort County and the Albemarle Conference. Tina's father, the Rev. Jimmy Webster, is pastor of Moseley's Creek Church near Dover.

Currently residing in Clayton with her husband, David, and their two girls, Hannah (age 7) and Sarah (age 3), Tina has proved herself dedicated to God's mission. As a non-traditional student with a family in tow, there have been some taxing times, but she seems to always have a ready smile. "It is like having an extended family." Tina said about her Mount Olive College experience. Mount Olive College provides more than just an education. It provides the strengths for students to grow as adults and it provides students with people who care and take an interest in them as individuals.

It might not be easy every single day, but as Tina follows God's calling in her life she can be content that it is right. "Life's problems would not be called 'hurdles' if there wasn't a way to get over them," she simply states. An excellent reminder that God has a beautiful plan for each of us and we can't get dragged down by the trials that will make us stronger.

MOUNT OLIVE ALUMNI FAMILY NIGHT *With the Durham Bulls*

Bring your family to the Durham Bulls Athletic Park
on Friday night, August 26, 2005 at 7 P.M.

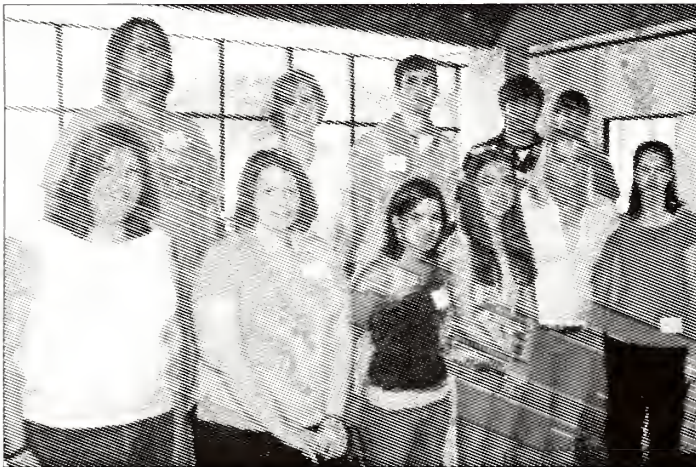
Durham Bulls vs. Richmond Braves

Free tickets compliments of the Mount Olive College SGA for
the first "10" alums who R.S.V.P. to Dianne B. Riley at (919) 658-7761.

Field box tickets are \$8.

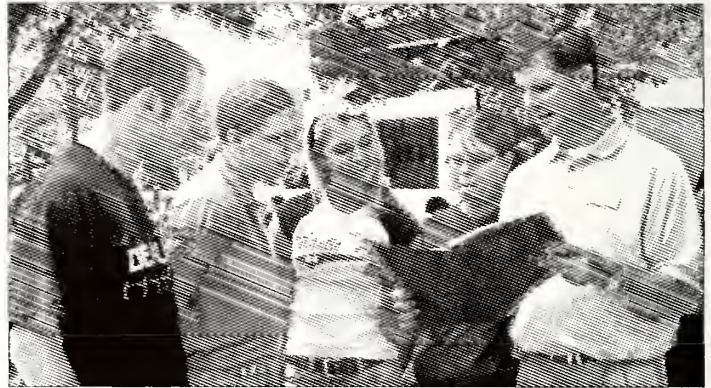
Please send ticket orders by August 5, 2005
(with checks made payable to *Mount Olive College*)
to the Alumni Office, 634 Henderson Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365.

FRESHMAN ADVISING DAY



Freshman Advising Day at Mount Olive College welcomed a number of Free Will Baptist students. **Back Row (l-r):** Josh Vesper of Beaufort Church in Carteret County, Jessica Griffin of Blended Fellowship Church in Wayne County, Bryan Caroon of Mount Zion Church in Pamlico County, Adam Williams of Stoney Creek Church in Wayne County, Matthew McLamb of Walnut Creek Church in Wayne County. **Front Row (l-r):** Ashley Edwards of Saint Mary's Church in Wilson County, Ashley Watson of Piney Grove Church in Johnson County, Jennifer Lanier of Cabin Church in Duplin County, Kristen Knowles of Long Ridge Church in Duplin County, Brianna Whaley of Sandy Plain Church in Duplin County, and Colleen Smith of Living Waters Church in Wayne County.

TIM WOODARD DISCUSSING PROGRAMS WITH FRESHMAN



(Left to Right): Michael Wheeler, Roberta Widhalm, Kathryn Cahoon, Jessi Kennedy, and Tim Woodard. Tim Woodard, director of admissions, and Roberta Widhalm, a present student, discuss programs at Mount Olive College with these freshman who were attending Freshman Advising Day.



HOME MISSIONS & EVANGELISM



September
is

DISASTER RELIEF MONTH
for Original Free Will Baptists

Sunday, September 25, 2005
GOOD SAMARITAN SUNDAY

CAMP VANDEMERE

"O Send Out Thy Light and Thy Truth."

Psalm 43:3

EVERYTHING IS POSSIBLE WHEN GOD IS IN IT NINTH ANNUAL SINGIN' BY THE RIVER

A great time of music, singing and fellowship will begin on Friday, August 19, when Camp Vandemere's Ninth Annual Singin' by the River kicks off at 7 P.M. "For His Glory" and "Trilogy" will be our featured groups bringing song and testimony during the evening. We will conclude that night's service around 9 P.M. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. On Saturday morning we will begin our singing service at 10 A.M. and continue until noon, at which time board members will have prepared a delicious fried fish meal with all the trimmings at a cost of \$5 per plate. Other food items will be available all during the day, along with soft drinks, t-shirts, hats, and visors. Singing will resume after lunch at 1 P.M. and continue until 3 P.M. The featured groups for Saturday are "Four In Christ," "Second Edition," "Called Out," and "Moving Up."

Ads for our *The Singin' by the River* program book are on sale now. If you would like to place an ad in the program book, please contact the camp manager, Wesley Taylor, at the numbers listed below, or treasurer, Damon Kennedy at (919) 568-3253. Also, this year, board members have compiled a cookbook. Cost for each cookbook will be \$10. Cookbooks will be available during the Singin' and afterwards, by contacting any of the board members or the camp manager.

The board would like to thank everyone in advance for their prayers and support for Camp Vandemere in the camp's effort to be a "Spiritual Life Retreat" facility for campers and other visitors during the year.

REMAINING SUMMER CAMPS AND RETREATS SCHEDULED

It is not too late to register for the remaining camp weeks that are available this year:

August 1-5	Summer Camp (Director: John Thompson, (252) 633-0025)
August 5-7	Peace Church Retreat
August 8-12	Little Rock Church (The Reverend John Hill (252) 239-1958)
August 12-13	White Oak Grove Church Retreat
August 19-20	Singin' By The River
August 26-27	Piney Grove Church Retreat
September 9-10	Boy Scout Weekend

To date, the camp has hosted eight camping weeks and several weekend retreats. Many lives have been touched by the spiritual and physical renewal of young and old alike. During the weeks of youth camp, many have come forward and accepted Christ as their Savior, while during the other gatherings, friends and family have strengthened their relationship with Christ and each other. Many thanks go out to the camp directors and retreat coordinators for making the time a life changing experience for all involved. Opportunity is still available, as noted above, for an uplifting time with the Lord and others down by the river at Camp Vandemere.

If any group or church would like more information concerning the camp, please contact the Camp Manager, Wesley Taylor. He can be reached at the camp by telephone: (252) 745-3171 or cell phone: (252) 514-3222. A presentation and slide program are available per request.

CONVENTION MEETS

by Teresa Grubbs, Corresponding Secretary

The North Carolina Woman's Auxiliary Convention of Original Free Will Baptists convened on May 12, 2005, at Beaverdam Church in Clarendon, for its seventy-eighth annual session. The theme for the convention was "Establish the Works of Our Hands" with Scripture from Psalm 90:17: "And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us; and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it."

The call to worship was singing by the Honeycutt Family of the Cape Fear Conference and was a blessing to all, setting the mood for the remainder of the meeting. The congregation then joined together to sing the hymn, "Have Thine Own Way." President Joan Little called the Convention to order. Becky Jo Sumner, President of the Albemarle Woman's Auxiliary and State Secretary, shared a devotion using Isaiah 49:16. She spoke on being safe and secure, "graven in the palms of my (God's) hands."

A warm welcome was given by Abby Worley of the Beaverdam Woman's Auxiliary and Jane Parker, President of the Cape Fear Woman's Auxiliary gave the response. Linda Gore of the host church gave important announcements and instructions for the day.

President Little also spoke of "the hand" in her address with Psalm 8:3-4 as her Scripture. She told how our hands and fingers change with age, but God does not. One day our hands will be made new. Of all the tasks our hands perform, closing them in prayer is one of the most

important. We then joined in singing "He's God the Whole World in His Hands."

President Little recognized special guests. We were especially happy to have Willem and Lydia van der Plas with us. Lydia had a special presentation from Tezdjan Mor-tazova, a leader in the mission work in Bulgaria. Lydia read a letter of thanks for support and presented the convention a certificate giving honorary membership in the Free Will Baptist Church of Bulgaria (Free Evangelical Church, Bulgaria) to the North Carolina Free Will Baptist women. Sandra Jones then presented Lydia with an honorary life membership pin from the Convention for her years of service to the Lord.

Committees were appointed to take care of business for the day. The offering was collected with Sondra Thick, program prayer chair of the Western Conference, leading the offertory prayer.

After Carolyn Jernigan gave the history of a very deserving recipient, Mrs. Miriam (Marie) Gilbert Glenn was presented with the Life Membership Award. Mrs. Glenn has served our denomination well in her lifetime.

During a break, we again were privileged to hear the Honeycutt Family. The congregation joined together in singing "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms." The Rev. Buddy Sasser, director of convention services, introduced representatives from the denominational ministries, highlighting special information. The Convention then took care

of business and received reports. The registered attendance was 116. Vicki Wade of the Eastern District and state missions chair gave a touching memorial service. Her comments were based on Martha's conversation with Jesus found in John 11.

Abbey Worley and Leann Denim of the host church helped us turn our hearts and minds toward God with special music as the worship service began. Dianne Riley introduced the speaker, the Rev. Jeff Daughtry, director of planned giving at Mount Olive College.

Mr. Daughtry gave a very challenging message. The text for his message was Psalm 90, a prayer of Moses. He stressed that the work of the Woman's Auxiliary is not our work, but God's work. Work is blessed when God establishes it. We need to love and encourage young women into God's work. The youth program is also the responsibility of the Auxiliary. We need to lead people into a richer land. We should not give excuses as Moses did when God called him to go to Egypt. The Auxiliary has much to do. The worship service was closed with the singing of "We'll Work 'Till Jesus Comes."

The Convention was closed with a benediction and blessing by the Rev. Bobby Carden. We thank Jo Ann Parrish and Jackie Flowers for being the pianist and song leader for the convention. A very special thanks to Beaverdam Church and the Pee Dee Conference for hosting the Convention.

LETTER FROM TEZDJAN

*(The following is a copy of the letter sent by Tedzjan Mortazova to
The North Carolina Woman's Auxiliary Convention and read by Lydia van der Plas at the Convention.)*

Dear Sisters in Christ Jesus,

I have come to know you by Willem. He told me what you do for people in Bulgaria and in many other countries! I appreciate your support highly and am thankful for the way you touch and change the hearts and lives of many children, youth, women, and men in my community! We thank God for leading you to support Foreign Missions and so supporting people in need! Many of our needy people will perhaps never see you or know your names, but one thing is sure, you encourage them in difficult and hopeless times!

I thank you that you are generous in your giving even though many of you have to work hard to earn a

living. We realize that while you help us to carry our burdens, you have also sorrows yourselves. We know that you pray for us and we like you to know that we pray for you and our Original Free Will Baptist denomination in North Carolina and elsewhere in the world. We know that we are joined together in the Lord Jesus Christ. Your concerns are our concerns.

You have taught us to consider it a privilege to care for God's people elsewhere in the world and around you. We pray that the day will come when we, too, can be privileged to come into action over our borders and witness to others who need Jesus our Savior. We recognize your genuine faith, pure,

unselfish love to God and to all people, which live on the Earth. We wholeheartedly pray and say: "May God's grace be on all of you who love our Lord Jesus Christ. May He bless you with an underlying love. May His comforting and leading Spirit dwell in you daily; your homes be blessed. May your feet never get tired to walk on God's road. May your hearts constantly be filled by His love, faith and peace. May your sick and your lonely people be comforted and held in the arms of the Everlasting Love, which is in Christ our Lord!"

*Greetings to everybody, with love and
respect in Christ our Lord,
TESSIE*

DAY SPRING CONFERENCE

by May B. Pittman, Director

"Can you hear me now?" "Can you hear me now?" "Can you hear me now?" Such was the beginning of the messages by Janet McKinney as she opened the Day Spring Conference at Cragmont June 6-11, 2005. The group of women, men, and children who had come wondered when they saw the bulletin what the topic could mean.

The group arrived at various times on Monday and was ready for the evening meal at 6 P.M. All assembled in the chapel at 7:15 P.M. and were welcomed by May Pittman, director. We began with the reading of Psalm 121 by Mrs. Marie Glenn. Announcements were made for the week and the staff was introduced. Fellowship followed before we retired from a busy day.

Tuesday began our regular schedule as Jane Tripp led in devotions for the week. She expounded on the following Psalms: Tuesday—Psalm 1, Wednesday—Psalm 27, Thursday—Psalm 100, Friday—Psalm 139, and Saturday—Psalm 121. She stated we are so blessed, and as long as we have the Lord as our Savior, we have no need to fear. We should be joyful and serve the Lord with gladness for all He has done for



us. The Lord knows all about us and still loves us. She stated that in Psalm 121 we lift our eyes to the hills and we know our help comes from the Lord who made Heaven, Earth, and us, and He is our keeper.

As Janet began her message on Tuesday, she noted what a technological world we live in—TV, cell phone, CD, DVD, instant messaging and answering machine. All of these seem to be important in our lives. She spoke of the TV ad that asks, "Can you hear me now?" and she related this to our lives of living in God. How often does He say to us, "Can you hear me now?"

She emphasized the use of the letter "P." God's Word is **Powerful, Precious,**

Purging, Purposeful, and Personal. She cited examples of Samuel, Isaiah, and Jeremiah when God called them. She noted we can't know God until we know His Word. God blesses us so we can bless other people. We should begin each morning with the prayer that we might not have done everything we should have yesterday, but God has given us a new day to do all we can for Him today. God wants to give us His best, but sometimes the best gift is one we give away. She warned us that if we miss, miss, and miss Sunday School and church, soon we won't miss it and we won't be missed. She indicated we need physical rest, but our bodies also need to rest in the spiritual realm. Later during the week, she brought in the lesson of Jonah—how he heard what God said, but he really didn't listen. We should stop and listen—not to our desires, but to God's desires. She asked a thought provoking question—why would God give us something greater to do when we complain about what He has already given us to do as Jonah did? He was more worried about his

(Continued on next page)

own feelings than the salvation for 120,000 people. She challenged us to grow, grow, and grow to what God wants us to be. God does not call the equipped, she said, but He equips the called.

Janet also brought to mind the story of the Samaritan woman and brought out the following points. Does Jesus well up in us? He loves us in spite of our unworthiness and sometimes we have to go through hard places for God to make us smooth. The woman left her water jar to go and tell others—we need to leave our water jar behind and identify with Jesus. The woman was spirit-filled and spirit-fed—are we on the right track? Jesus went where she was when needed. He comes to us when needed.

Janet closed her message on Friday with James 1:19 in which he talks about listening and doing! We are told that we should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger. She challenged us not to merely listen, but to get in the flow of letting God change us. We will “listen” differently after hearing Janet proclaim God’s Word in terms of God’s saying to us, “Can you

hear Me now?”

Our music was a special blessing with the piano playing of JoAnn Parrish and leading of Jackie Flowers. Several people blessed us with special singing and one of the men sang several special selections.

The week was filled with lots of great fellowship, shopping, and rocking on the porch. We were pampered by John and Arlinda’s staff with delicious food during the week.

The chapel almost shook with so much laughter on Wednesday afternoon as we enjoyed “fun time.” Several people took part in this and we were led in some participation fun by Marie and Earl Glenn. It was a fun-filled hour-and-a-half followed by singing.

In our Bible study on Wednesday night, Becky Jo Sumner talked about the Cities of Refuge and compared Jesus as our refuge. Many of the reasons the people needed a place of refuge are the same reasons we need a refuge today—and Jesus is our refuge.

John Williams spoke to us on Thursday morning, giving us an up-to-date on the New Heights program. The next

phase will be a conference/dorm and hopefully, it will be completed in time for camp weeks next summer. He answered questions from the group.

The Rev. Harold Jones spoke to us on Friday afternoon with news of missions and the short-term team trips. His message was from Isaiah 55:3, and he cited several people to whom God spoke, but they didn’t listen—Adam, Jonah, and Philip. He stated that God’s instructions are to be heard and heeded. When we say “Our Father, He hears us and we have His attention. God says, “Listen to me as I listen to you.”

It was a blessed week as we gave our offerings to Cragmont—\$590, Missions—\$780, and Bulgaria—\$707.

Saturday morning arrived too soon, but yet, we had had a wonderful experience of being “on the mountain” and hearing God’s message to us. We left for home, confident that the words we heard will help us as we encounter the valleys of life. We will, indeed, “listen and hear” in a different way now. Many thanks to Janet and to those of you who attended and blessed us with your presence as we studied together.

PEOPLE & EVENTS

POWHATAN NEWS

by Rita Jones



Powhatan had a team to participate in the Johnston County Relay for Life. Kristen Davis and Chris Bagley were the team captains and over \$4000 was raised for the American Cancer Society. Many members came out on Friday evening in support of the event.

Congratulations to Crystal Guy and Nikki Jones who each received a scholarship from the Cape Fear District’s Christian Education Committee. Both district youth officers and past state recording secretaries for the Youth Convention, Crystal will be attending Mount Olive College and Nikki will be at North Carolina State University this fall. Please support our denomination’s scholarship opportunities for deserving honor graduates. There are always more applicants than there are funds available.

Please pray for the members working with the Youth Convention’s mission team this month. Diana and Greg Bass II, Leah Boykin (Cape Fear Youth Officer), Nicole Lee, Dean Hardy, Kim Canady, Ann Narron, Julie Capps, and Rita Jones make up the Powhatan group for 2005 working in San Antonio, Texas, trying to serve in the “dry and thirsty land.”

FREE UNION CHURCH RAISES MONEY FOR NEW HEIGHTS

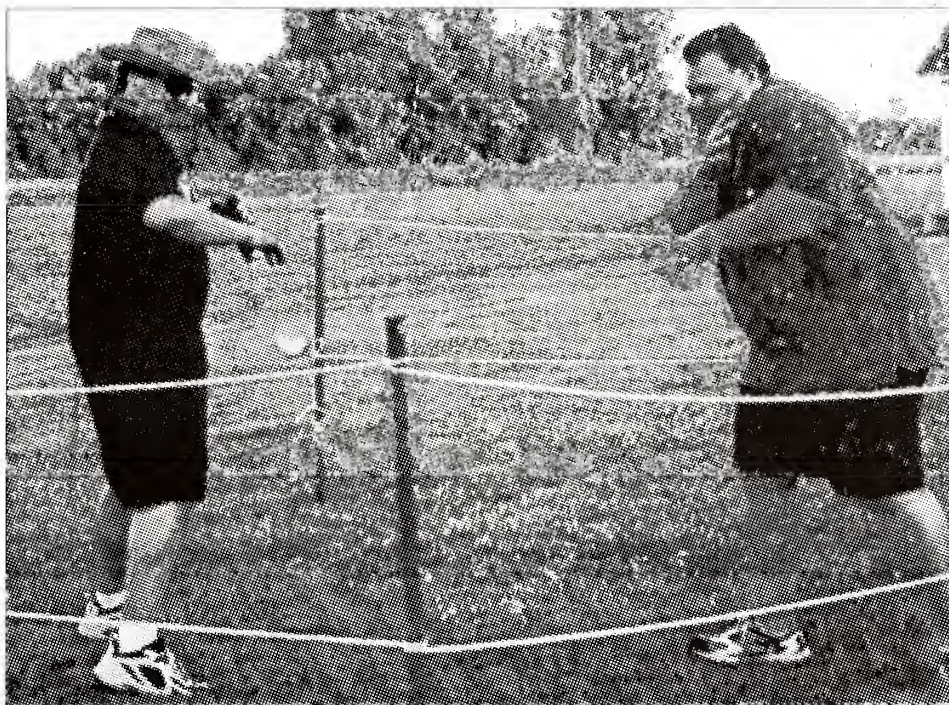
by Marci R. Rollins-Smart

Bryant Hines, marketing director for Cragmont Assembly, has been known to say that he would race pigs to raise money for the New Heights campaign. Well, the ministers at Free Union Church, Greene County, didn't race pigs, but they did present a challenge to their church during Vacation Bible School that ended up raising over \$1,000 in just four days for the New Heights campaign!

Pastor/Youth Minister Alan Joyner and Minister of Education Kelley Smart challenged everyone attending Bible School to raise at least \$700 for the campaign which is raising money for new buildings at Cragmont Assembly. The incentive for raising the money was that everyone would be able to throw water balloons at the two ministers following the Bible School Commencement service.

The challenge was announced the first night of Bible School (Thursday) and by Friday night, the goal was nowhere close to being met. Saturday's offering looked a little more promising, but the ministers were still going to be dry! An hour before church on Sunday morning the count was within \$100 of reaching the goal and the announcement was made prior to the worship service that the youth would be standing at the door with offering plates following the service. No more money would be accepted after that point.

At the commencement service that evening, VBS Director Cherry Jones announced that the goal had been met and surpassed: a total of \$1,035. (An especially amazing figure considering the church is in the midst of raising money for a new bus and has just launched a new building program!) The water balloons had been filled and following supper that evening the children, youth, and adults would be called up by class



Kelley Smart (left) and Alan Joyner (right) trying to avoid being hit by the water balloons.

to have their chance at soaking the ministers.

Youth leader Randy Beaman prepared a corral to hold the ministers in—which went along perfectly with the theme of Circle G Ranch. One by one the classes lined up, with each person receiving one water balloon and being told when to throw. The ministers both thought they were fairly fortunate at first: the water balloons were not that cold and most of the aims were missing them. Then refrigerated water balloons were brought out and the excitement was raised. But that was not the best part: Randy and church member Wayne Bennett doused Alan and Kelley with buckets of cold water to make up for anything the water balloons had not accomplished!

Although threats of payback were made, the ministers were good sports about it all. Both men serve as counselors for camp and know the need for new buildings at Cragmont.

They were glad to be able to do whatever they could to raise money for such a worthy cause—and they were excited to see the people of Free Union stand up to meet the challenge.



Alan being soaked by a VERY cold water balloon.

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY OF PLEASANT PLAIN CHURCH HONORS RUBY GRIFFIN



(Left to right: Rev. Harwood Jr., pastor; Ruby Griffin; Helen Harwood).

Ruby Griffin who has spent 80 of her 85 years as an active member at Pleasant Plain Church, Selma, NC was honored with a surprise recognition service on Sunday, June 26, 2005 at the eleven o'clock worship hour. The Rev. Clifford Harwood Jr., pastor and his wife, Helen, current Auxiliary President, presented Ruby with the Life Award

Woman's Auxiliary Free Will Baptist pin and a certificate for her faithful and loyal service of her co-laborers. Ruby has served as the Woman's Auxiliary President for the church from 1970-January 2005. Long-stem roses were presented individually by eight auxiliary members along with a crystal vase during the special recognition service. The Rev. Harwood's sermon was on "Outstanding Women in the Bible." Sixteen of Ruby's family members including her newest three-month-old great-granddaughter recently named Ruby after the honoree surprised her at the morning worship service with their attendance to celebrate her 85th birthday. The following poem was written and read by Pastor Harwood which describes Ruby's Christian life as she has faithfully served the Lord at her beloved church.

MRS. RUBY IS A JEWEL INDEED

by Clifford B. Harwood, Pastor, Pleasant Plain Church

We gather today to honor our own Mrs. Ruby.
On this occasion, we make this, her special day.
We honor one who has influenced the lives of many.
Along her journey of faith, along her life's pathway.

We honor her service to her church, and her dedication.
We honor her work with the Woman's Auxiliary as well.
We honor her willingness to serve God without hesitation.
We could go on and on as there is much that we could tell.

The food she has carried to neighbors, an army she could feed.
The compassion for those about us who are in desperate need.
The flowers she brings to God's Sanctuary, are beautiful indeed.
And the prayers of intercession sent up from her bended knee.

The Bible speaks of the ideal woman in Proverbs Thirty-one.
"Strength and honor are her clothing. She shall rejoice in time to come."
"Her price is far above rubies." The Word of God plainly says,
"A woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised."

The dictionary says a ruby is valued as a precious stone.
And we have one here today that we honor as our own.
So on this special day, a tribute to you, Mrs. Ruby, we pay,
And may God continue to bless you on each new passing day.

WOMAN'S DAY SERVICE HELD

by Jean Averette



May Pittman (left) presents the "Life Membership Award" to Margaret Langley (right).

The Woman's Auxiliary held their annual Woman's Day service at First Church of Greenville during the morning worship service on June 26, 2005.

The entire service was conducted by members of the Woman's Auxiliary, who served as music director, pianist, choir members, ushers, Scripture readers, and prayer leaders. The service was coordinated by Sharon Stocks, program chairperson of the auxiliary.

The message from God's Word was provided by Dianne Riley, Director of Alumni Affairs at Mount Olive College. She gave an inspiring message entitled "Marginless Living" in which she challenged everyone to set priorities in their lives.

"Life Membership Awards" are given at the local, district and state levels of the auxiliary to honor women who have shown dedication and faithfulness in serving God. During the service, a "Life Membership Award" was presented to Margaret Langley, who easily met all the qualifications and is richly deserving of the award. Margaret holds seniority in membership of First Church and has been a member of the auxiliary for many years. No matter what is asked of her, she is always willing to do that plus more. She has taught Sunday School for twenty-five years, teaching both the intermediate and nursery age groups. She has been like a second "mother" to many of the youth and young adults in the church. She has served as a past-president and benevolence chairperson in the auxiliary, and she coordinates the collecting and selling of crafts at the biannual Harvest Festival fund raiser.

Margaret was presented a certificate, an auxiliary "life membership" pin and an arrangement of flowers.

NEW CD RELEASE CONCERT
FEATURING
PILLAR MUSIC GROUP ARTIST,

SHERRY WATKINS

Sherry & Friends

Saturday, August 13, 2005

7 P.M.

Jackson Heights OFWB Church
(on the corner of Camellia Street and
Central Avenue, Kinston, NC)

Ashley G. Summerlin, Pastor

For more information, call (919) 738-2085



Sherry is a gospel music artist with the Pillar Music Group. She has been singing since she was 5 years old. She has utilized her God-given talents in such venues as radio, women's conferences, international and state church conferences, camp meetings, local church concerts, festivals, and revivals. Sherry's main goal for her ministry is to lift up the name of the Lord and to allow Him to receive all of the glory and honor He deserves. Her first release with the Pillar Music Group, "From My Heart" has been in circulation for 5 years. The newest release, "Sherry & Friends" features Sherry and some of her friends doing what they all do best...glorifying and worshiping God in song. For details on bookings or product information, you can call (910) 574-5224 or (910) 392-9315.

OLD-FASHIONED TENT REVIVAL

August 26-27, 2005 at 7:30 P.M.
Edgewood FWB Church

As a part of Heritage Month, Edgewood Church will conduct an old-fashioned tent revival on Friday-Saturday, August 26-27 at 7:30 P.M.

A hotdog supper will be on sale from 6:00-7:00 P.M. on Saturday night. The church is located in the Crisp community of Edgewood County on Edgewood Church Road, ½ mile off Carr Farm Road which runs between US 258 and NC 43.

Contact Ray Williamson at (252) 985-2905 or Doug Gayhardt at (252) 752-9099 for more information.

Special music on Friday night by Movin' Up.

Special Music on Saturday Night by Curtis Hyler and Jubilation.

Special guest music and preaching by Allen Ham and Lawrence Taylor.

Everyone is invited to come and enjoy the old-time feeling of spirited singing and preaching of the Gospel in the old-fashioned way of a tent revival. Come early for up-close seating!

"LORD, SEND A GREAT REVIVAL IN MY SOUL!"

*The children and grandchildren of
The Reverend and Mrs. Harold Swinson
request the pleasure of your company
at a reception celebrating their dedication to
each other and to the ministry
as we honor their
40th wedding anniversary
and the
25th anniversary of the ordination
of our father and grandfather.*

Please join us on
Saturday, September 17, 2005 at 2:00 P.M.
at

Kenly Original Free Will Baptist Church,
107 South Edgerton Street, Kenly, North Carolina.

The favor of a reply is requested no later than
September 7, 2005. You may respond to Pam Lee
at (252) 299-1250 or <pamelajlee@hotmail.com>.

The Woman's Auxiliary of Friendship Church
presents their

Annual Bazaar

Saturday, September 3, 2005

and

Monday, September 5, 2005

(7 A.M.-3 P.M. both days)

at

Friendship OFWB Church

Church Fellowship Building
41 Friendship Church Road
Middlesex, NC 27557
(formerly at Emit Crossing)

**Home-baked cakes & pies, homemade
candies, pickles, & jellies, string beans,
tomatoes, and hotdogs with home-made chili.
Crafts are also available for purchase.**

Come fellowship and eat with us!

**I have found that there is a
tremendous joy in giving. It is a very
important part of the joy of living.**

—William Black

SUBMISSION DEADLINE INFORMATION FOR ARTICLES AND ADVERTISING

The deadline for submissions to *The Free Will Baptist* is the 5th day of the month prior to publication. (Example: Items to be published in a January issue must be in no later than the 5th day of December.) You may submit items by any of the following methods:

- E-mail to <editor@fwbpress.com>,
- Fax to (252) 746-9248, Attn: Editor,
- Hand deliver, or
- Mail to: Editor, *The Free Will Baptist*
PO Box 159
Ayden, NC 28513.

***NO PHONE-IN OR HANDWRITTEN INFORMATION WILL BE
ACCEPTED! ALL MATERIAL MUST BE TYPED (DOUBLE-SPACED)!**
***PICTURES ARE NOT RETURNED UNLESS THERE IS AN AP-
PROPRIATE SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE INCLUDED!**

Submissions for *Personal Information Changes* will be run
for 2 months only.

The advertising rates listed below are for churches, auxiliary organizations, and individuals. These charges will apply to any announcements, coming event listings, invitations, and registration forms. There is no charge for article submissions. If you have any questions, contact the editor at (800) 849-3927 ext. 227 or by e-mail at <editor@fwbpress.com>.

Display/Advertising Rates

1/8 page	= \$10
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Full page	= \$40

Churches & Ministry Positions = \$10

Personal Information Changes = Free

These rates are for first-time runs. Additional consecutive runs are half-price (of equal or lesser size).

The printing of ads is contingent on the availability of space. We reserve the right to condense space as necessary. You will be charged only for the actual size used.

CHURCHES & MINISTRY POSITIONS AVAILABLE

THE REVEREND CHARLES PETIT is available for the following services: pastoral, supply, revivals, or interim work. He may be reached at (919) 553-5741 or by mail at 2014 Penny Lane, Clayton, NC 27520

PLEASANT HILL CHURCH, located at 1071 Gurly Dairy Road in Pikeville, is seeking a pastor. Our church has three services a week. Interested candidates should contact Edward Croom at (919) 242-5180 or Becky Hare at (919) 734-5170.

NEW HAVEN CHURCH, New Bern, is seeking a full-time pastor. Please send resumés to: Jonathan Ipock, 2227 C. Locksley Woods Drive, Greenville, NC 27858 or contact him by phone at (252) 671-1288.

PERSONAL INFORMATION CHANGES

Margaret C. Brown
742 W. Garner Rd., Apt. A-109
Garner, NC 27529

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I would like to order _____ copies of *The Free Will Baptist*.

- ☐ **Every Family Plan (\$11.75 each):** The church provides us the names and addresses of every member and we send them to each home. The church is billed quarterly.

Mail This Form With Payment To: The Free Will Baptist, PO Box 159, Ayden, NC 28513

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Bethany Layman's League, Winterville, NC
Bethel Church, Four Oaks, NC
Beulaville Church, Beulaville, NC
Black Jack Church, Greenville, NC
Cabin Church, Beulaville, NC
Charity Mission/Church, Whiteville, NC
Christian Chapel Church, Pink Hill, NC
Core Creek Church, Cove City, NC
Covenant Church, Hope Mills, NC
Crab Point Church, Morehead City, NC
Croatan Church, New Bern, NC
Cypress Creek, Whiteville, NC
Daly's Chapel Church, Seven Springs, NC
Daniel's Chapel Woman's Aux., Wilson, NC
Davis Church, Davis, NC
Deep Run Church, Deep Run, NC
Edgewood Church, Macclesfield, NC
Elm Grove Church, Ayden, NC
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First Church, Williamston, NC
First Church, Wilson, NC
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Free Union Church, Spring Hope, NC
Free Union Church, Walstonburg, NC
Fremont Church, Fremont, NC
Friendly Chapel Church, Greensboro, NC
Friendship Church, Farmville, NC
Greater Bethlehem Church, Starke, FL
Grimsley Church, Snow Hill, NC
Gum Swamp Church, Greenville, NC
Harmony Church, Wilson, NC

Harrell's Chapel Church, Snow Hill, NC
Haymount Church, Fayetteville, NC
Hickory Grove Church, Robersonville, NC
Hillsberry Church, Clinton, NC
Holly Springs Woman's Aux., Newport, NC
Hopewell Church, Smithfield, NC
House of Prayer Church, Kernersville, NC
Howell Swamp Church, Walstonburg, NC
Hugo Church, Grifton, NC
Jakin Church, Jakin, GA
Johnston Union Church, Smithfield, NC
Kenly Church, Kenly, NC
Kings Cross Roads Church, Farmville, NC
La Grange Church, La Grange, NC
Lanwood Chapel Church, Smithfield, NC
Lee's Chapel Church, Dunn, NC
Little Creek Church, Ayden, NC
Little Rock Church, Lucama, NC
Living Waters Church, Pikeville, NC
Macedonia Church, Whiteville, NC
Marlboro Church, Farmville, NC
May's Chapel Church, Dudley, NC
Moseley's Creek Church, Dover, NC
Mt. Calvary Church, Clarkton, NC
Mt. Zion Church, Nashville, NC
Mt. Zion Church, Bayboro, NC
New Bethlehem Church, Grantsboro, NC
Northeast Church, Mount Olive, NC
Northern Church, Bahama, NC
Oak Grove Church, Bladenboro, NC
Oak Grove Church, Newton Grove, NC
Ormondsville Church, Ayden, NC
Pearsall Chapel Church, Kenansville, NC
Pilgrim's Home Church, Kinston, NC
Pine Level Church, Pine Level, NC
Piney Grove Church, Greenville, NC
Piney Grove Church, Albertson, NC
Piney Grove Woman's Aux., Kenly, NC
Pleasant Grove Church, Dunn, NC
Pleasant Hill Church, Grimesland, NC
Pleasant Hill Church, Pikeville, NC
Powhatan Church, Clayton, NC
Rains Crossroads Church, Kenly, NC
Reedy Branch Church, Winterville, NC

Robert's Grove Woman's Aux., Dunn, NC
Rock Springs Church, Bailey, NC
Rose Hill Church, Winterville, NC
Rose of Sharon Church, Robersonville, NC
Russell Creek Church, Beaufort, NC
Saint's Delight Church, Ayden, NC
Saint's Delight Church, New Bern, NC
Saratoga Church, Saratoga, NC
Selma Church, Selma, NC
Shady Grove Church, Dunn, NC
Sidney Church, Belhaven, NC
Silver Creek Church, Swansboro, NC
Smith's New Home Church, Deep Run
Smyrna Church, Benson, NC
Sneads Ferry Church, Sneads Ferry, NC
Snow Hill Church, Mount Olive, NC
Spring Branch Church, Walstonburg, NC
Spring Hill Church, Goldsboro, NC
St. Mary's Church, Kenly, NC
St. Mary's Church, New Bern, NC
St. Mary's Grove Church, Benson, NC
St. Paul Church, Newton Grove, NC
Steven's Chapel Church, Benson, NC
Stony Hill Church, Middlesex, NC
Sweet Gum Grove Church, Stokes, NC
Tee's Chapel Church, Smithfield, NC
Union Chapel Church, Middlesex, NC
Union Chapel Church, Plymouth, NC
Unity Church, Wilson, NC
Vandora Springs Church, Garner, NC
Verona Church, Jacksonville, NC
Walnut Creek Church, La Grange, NC
Wardens Grove Church, Lowland, NC
Westside Church, Kinston, NC
Whaley's Chapel Church, Richlands, NC
White Hill Church, Aurora, NC
White Oak Church, Bladenboro, NC
White Oak Church, La Grange, NC
Wildwood Church, Garner, NC
Wintergreen Church, Cove City, NC
Winterville Church, Winterville, NC
Wooten's Chapel Church, Raleigh, NC
Yelverton Grove Church, Smithfield, NC
Zion Church, Blakely, GA

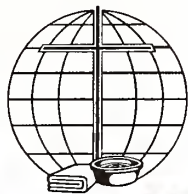
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September 2005



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Meeting dates and locations are subject to change. You are encouraged to call in advance to confirm meeting schedules.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
4	5 LABOR DAY	6	7	8	9 Boy Scout Weekend at Camp Vandemere	10 Boy Scout Weekend at Camp Vandemere Eastern District Youth Convention at Sandy Plain Church
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 GOOD SAMARITAN SUNDAY	26	27	28	29	30	

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POWER VERSE

The officers answered,
Never man spake like this one
(John 7:46).

NEW YORK—A POINT OF VIEW

by Darren E. Davenport, Editor

Wow! If I described New York in one word—that's what it would be. My wife, Carla, and I (and three others) just recently returned from a trip there. We saw lots of things—wow things. We experienced subways, kamikaze taxis, the Statue of Liberty, Trump Tower, the Empire State Building, Times Square, a delayed and re-directed airline trip, and so much more. And there was even more we didn't get a chance to see. We also saw the Broadway play, *Phantom of the Opera*, which was breath-taking. I'd love to see it again! The cover photo of Lady Liberty is one of many pictures I took while there.

This was the first time I had ever been to New York for a stay. It is quite a multi-cultural and multi-ethnic city. We saw all types of people from all walks of life. We also saw a lot of beautiful architecture—especially where the churches were concerned. The detailed ornateness was remarkable, to say the least. We exhausted ourselves with all our walking and sight-seeing and standing in long lines, seemingly forever.

Yet, going to New York was an experience I will never forget—and maybe one day will visit again, and I do mean visit. I don't think I'm quite cut out for the big city life!



IT WAS ENOUGH!

by C. H. Overman, Editor Emeritus, Guest Writer

All four of the Gospel writers record the miraculous feeding of the five thousand. It is John's account, however, that mentions the lad who had the *five barley loaves, and two small fishes* (John 6:9). It was the disciple, Andrew, who located the boy and reported the same to Jesus. The matter of feeding such a great multitude was prompted by Jesus' compassion for the people who had gathered to hear His teachings, and they had listened for hours. Jesus first asked Philip, *...Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat? And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do* (John 6:5-6). Philip acknowledged that *...Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little* (John 6:7).

According to *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, "The amount needed was a large sum of money: literally '200 denarii.' One denarius was a wage for a day's work; this would have been eight months' wages. Even if the bread had been available, the disciples did not have nearly that much money" (NT 292).

The five barley loaves and the two fish was a meager amount of food, but placed in the hands of the Savior, they were sufficient. It was enough! The multitude was fed and twelve baskets of food remained. Perhaps the greatest truth to be gleaned from this

miracle is what He can accomplish through those who present their all to Him. It may not be much, but when we present ourselves to Him, feeling that we do not have much to offer, He receives us just as we are and multiplies our efforts to advance His Kingdom.

Our denominational ministries serve as examples of what God can do through the efforts of those who are willing to give, serve, pray, and promote them. Our number is not large and our resources are not as great as many other denominations, but He has surely blessed our efforts. Years ago our leaders, at different periods of time, had visions of an orphanage, a college, a printing establishment, missions, etc. Our ten ministries began in small ways, but God has multiplied them a thousand fold, and He can do far greater things through our faithfulness.

The hymn writer expressed in simple terms when he wrote, "Little is much when God is in it." So it was with the barley loaves and two small fish. The young lad gave what he had, and our Lord fed a multitude. Only eternity will reveal the total accomplishments of giving Him our all. What more can we do, "For ye are bought with a price: therefore, glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's (1 Corinthians 6:20).

Reflections

CITY OF CONTRAST— MESSAGE OF CONVERSION

by Mark Hogan

New York is a city of stark contrasts. It is the most ethnically diverse city in America. New York has long been known as the port of entry into the New World. Most immigrant groups gain a foot-hold here before elsewhere in the United States. It is architecturally diverse, with varying building styles co-existing. Low-rise turn of the century tenements set beside high-rise luxury condominiums is common. Public housing projects are juxtaposed against new commercial towers. The economic contrasts in the city are extreme. Tax revenues are so great from NYC that the city sends in nine times as much as it receives in Federal funding. Madison Avenue executives buy coffee from coffee carts operated by first generation immigrants. Wall Street stock traders have shoes shined by black immigrants from the Caribbean. Twenty-one year old models hail cabs driven by any variety of persons speaking less than perfect English. Religiously, every major world religion, cult, and denomination is represented in New York. According to the Council of Churches of the City of New York there are approximately 11,350 churches in the five boroughs. Additionally, there are some 580 Jewish centers and synagogues, 100 Mosques, 28 Hindu Temples, and 40 Buddhist Temples. The contrast between the most secular city in America and this significant religious presence is striking. According to a survey taken by The Christian Cultural Center in 2003, there are probably some 7,000 evangelical congregations in the Big Apple with a Sunday attendance of some 1 million to 1.5 million souls. Even Andrea Elliot of the American Muslim Perspective reports that, "Evangelism is flourishing not just in the red states of the nation's heartland, but in the urban, liberal stronghold of New York City, where thousands of evangelical churches are anchored in working-class neighborhoods."

Once again this weekend I was re-

minded of the stark contrasts that constantly confront me as a New Yorker and as a Christian. This was a special weekend for the Christian community in the New York metropolitan area. We were chosen to host what is being hailed as Billy Graham's final North American Crusade. And why shouldn't this be the location of his swan song? It was in New York where Billy Graham was catapulted into the national arena as a spiritual force with which to be reckoned. For six weeks in 1957, he spoke to capacity crowds at Madison Square Gardens. In one of the nation's premier temples of entertainment, he preached the simple Gospel message of God's love and redemptive provision through Jesus Christ and Him alone. It was during this protracted meeting that an entire generation of Christian leaders was born. God had a new crop of disciples ripe for the picking and sent Billy Graham to harvest them. During the past year of preparations, I have heard story after story of New Yorkers who trace their spiritual journey back to those weeks in 1957.

It was Sunday afternoon on the last day of the three day crusade. I had attended the crusade on Friday evening and decided to stay away on Sunday to make room for others who had not yet been. Over a casual lunch at a Times Square McDonald's I overheard a group of women debating on subway routes to Queens. "Going to the Crusade," I asked? "Why, yes," she responded in a thick Jamaican accent. "You're going to love it," I said. "In fact, I used to pastor a church about 12 miles from his home in the mountains of North Carolina." The ladies smiled and went on their way. Though extremely hot, I decided to walk part of the way home. As I approached 5th Avenue, I heard a familiar thumping. It was obvious that a parade was creeping down the spine of Manhattan. "What parade?" I thought. "That heavy thumping reminds me of only one parade I

have ever seen in the city." Then as I approached the parade route, I began to see the bright colors of the rainbow. The thumping became more intense. Scantly clad revelers were prancing up the avenue with signs and symbols. "I didn't know that this was the day for the Gay Pride Parade," I thought. Then it occurred to me. Once again this city of contrasts hit me in the face. In one borough was a parade celebrating a life of sin, while in another corner of the city was an event declaring forgiveness of sin. One event exhibited decadence; the other proclaimed deliverance. One was a gathering of unrestrained lust, while the other was a presentation of divine love. One demanded self-determination, the other God's revelation. The contrast was clear. One was the work of a corrupt world system; the other a work of God's Kingdom.

Does this mean that I subscribe to the extremes advocated by those who abandon the principles of the Gospel in their zeal to make a stand against evil? Should people be treated any less human because of their sin? Remember, it was Jesus who was ridiculed for being a friend of sinners. It was the Pharisees that Jesus corrected for their self-righteousness. A careful reading of Paul's first letter to the Corinthians reveals that he considered extortion and covetousness in the same vane as fornication, homosexuality, and adultery (see 1 Corinthians 6:8-11). The church must learn how to craft a clear biblical response to sin while holding out a compassionate offer of deliverance and forgiveness. Matthew chapter eleven sates, "The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and "sinners."'" But wisdom is proved right by her actions" (v. 19 NIV). I wonder if wisdom will prevail in our efforts to hate the sin while loving the sinner. My personal experience is not something I ever would have expected.

(Continued on next page)

When I first started work at City University of New York, my first supervisor was a lesbian. It is not something I picked up on at first, but over time learned of her orientation. Over time I found her to be perhaps the best boss for which I have ever worked! I was treated with respect, honesty, and fairness. She took a genuine interest in my family and future ministry. During my last performance evaluation when she was moving to another job, she made a striking statement. She said, "When I looked at your resume, I doubted whether I would like this Bible guy. But I have learned to respect you for your work ethics and values. It's been a real personal and professional pleasure to work with you." To me that was affirmation of my presence in this secular position and the value of simply living your faith before those we might consider unreachable. Only eternity will tell the value of the privilege of being a light to this lost sheep. This prompts

me to ask a series of questions. Can I understand this lifestyle? No way. Can I comprehend what would lead one down such a path in life? Not a whit. Do I think we can embrace this as a legitimate expression of human sexuality! Heaven forbid! Do I think people trapped in this sinful life are beyond the reach of God's grace. Not on your life.

Living in a city of contrasts is what makes New York such an interesting and aggravating place to live. Yet, no matter where you live, in a big city or a small village, as the people of God you are faced with contrasts every day. The poor girl at the cash register who has few options for the unwanted baby she carries, the aging manager who has just been downsized, the mother whose only child is diagnosed with cancer. These things come to the house of faith, but those outside the Kingdom face these life crises without the benefit of the family and power of God to carry

them through. You can demonstrate a faith that contrasts the helplessness of the world.

On that Friday evening, I attended the Graham Crusade. As the strains of "Just As I Am" played in the background, I made my way back to the subway. On the way I came upon a fountain with a huge steel globe rising from the center. It occurred to me that this great city of eight million souls was just a tiny dot on this globe for whom Christ died. This song was not just for New York City this night, but for the whole world. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). We must not complain about these sinners intruding into our lives. That's why we are here. That's our message. That's our mission. That is the contrast that will lead to conversion. ▲

CONVENTION MESSAGE, PART 2 *BUILDING ON THIS ROCK*

May 19, 2005

by De Wayne Eakes

NOTE OF APOLOGY: Brethren of the Eastern Conference, please accept my sincere apology for the "off the cuff" remark that I made during the delivery of the Convention message on Thursday of our Convention. As you can tell from the text of this message, it was not included in the document and should not have been spoken at all. It was in poor taste and although my remark was intended in jest—I am aware that some did not receive it that way. Again, I genuinely apologize for any insult that was taken.

Today my assigned section is to deal with two questions: (1) Why aren't we making a difference? and (2) What will it take for Original Free Will Baptists to make a difference in our communities and the lives of those we serve? Today's Scripture text is: 1 Peter 2:4–10; Matthew 7:24–27; 16:13–20 (18).

QUESTION #1: WHY AREN'T WE MAKING A DIFFERENCE?

1. The assumption of the question is that "We aren't making a difference?" Is that assumption correct? I believe to

say that Original Free Will Baptists aren't making a difference is a real slap in the face of many good, faithful, and loyal Original Free Will Baptists; therefore, I cannot agree with the obvious assumption of the question. But, let's be honest—are we, as the third oldest denomination in North Carolina, having the impact on our communities, state, nation, and world that we could, indeed *should* be having? Would anyone argue with me if I answer that with a firm "No?" I say that painfully because I am Free Will Baptist born, Free

Will Baptist bred, and when I die I plan to be Free Will Baptist dead—but not for long! That being said, why aren't we being more effective in our witness for Christ?

2. One reason is that we are far *too selective* in our outreach and most of our churches are woefully *inconsistent* in our outreach to the community around our churches. What do I mean by "selective and inconsistent" in our outreach? By *selective*, I mean that we tend toward *homogeneity*—that is, we are too

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much governed by the axiom, "Likes attract and opposites repel." That is one of the unbiblical myths the old church growth movement has foisted upon us. In dealing with magnetic fields the exact opposite is true—"Likes repel and opposites attract." We like to invite people just like us: socially, economically, educationally, and racially. Very few of our churches have broken out of that mold of *homogeneity*. We have to move beyond that if we are ever to have more than 32–35,000 Original Free Will Baptists—we have to go beyond that false boundary. Paul said in Galatians 3:28, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female: for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (NIV). Acts 10:34 states, "Then Peter [said], I perceive that God is no respecter of persons." We are also *inconsistent* in our outreach to the community. We tend to think that when we have a "so-called" "revival" or two per year and Vacation Bible School each summer; this fulfills our outreach responsibilities to the community! Our folks do an acceptable job of outreach at Little Rock. Our deacons do visitation in a two person team every Sunday afternoon, thanks to the leadership of our chairman. Our Christian Education Board has an active visitation program—but we need to do much more. Our folks have developed an effective *Prayer Ministry* but it needs to grow more. We have a great Music Minister in the person of Cynthia Kennedy and our Youth Minister, John Hill, has the best program, beginning the first week after school is out, that we have had, and the majority of those registered are from outside the church! This is all under the umbrella of *Evangelism*.

3. Mention "Evangelism" and droves of people run the other way—what are we afraid of? People think that they have to have some magic formula like *Evangelism Explosion* or *the Roman Road*—I find that the Roman Road is a useful tool—but the most effective tool you have is you—*your experience of God in your life*—your personal faith journey. If you have a passion for Christ, then share it in a respectful, non-threatening way. I wouldn't advise grabbing people on the street corner, not in today's world. And if you go up to a

perfect stranger or in their home in cold-contact and ask them, "If you die tonight are you going to Heaven or Hell?" they may invite you to go—to some other place. *True evangelism respects all people but is not a respecter of persons*. Try hospitality evangelism, friendship evangelism, or dialogue evangelism—three very non-threatening approaches that anyone with a willingness to witness can utilize. Don't be afraid to share Christ with others just because they are "different" than most folks in your church. God sees neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female—how about rich nor poor, middle nor upper class, Spanish nor Asian, black, red, nor white? Are we afraid that if we get different people in our churches that they will change who we are? And, oh yes, as my brother has pointed out—evangelism is not just for the ministers and deacons or an evangelism/visitation committee, it is for every believer in Jesus Christ!

4. Our Convention Executive Committee is challenging us to commit to "conversion growth" two percent per year for five years which equals ten percent over that time period. Can we do it—yes! Will we all do it—some will and many will not—why? Because it will require too much effort and move us out of the "comfortable pew" and to us some in vogue nomenclature, to move out of our "comfort zones." Dr. Israel Galindo, at Baptist Theological Seminar in Richmond, Virginia lists four types of Church Growth: First, there is *Biological Growth*: from the womb to the nursery room—that is great growth—but you have to have an influx of young couples. Second, there is *Transferral Growth*: members who come from other churches to your church. At Little Rock, half of our new additions come that way—but is trading members real growth? Third, there is *Transitional Growth*: someone unites with your congregation in order to move into some area of Christian ministry—the numbers here are very small and cancels out when they move on. The fourth area is *Conversional Growth*: that is first time believers who "believe in their heart and confess with their mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord." These are those who are "born anew into the

Kingdom of God." This is the growth that builds the Kingdom—new blood—redeemed by the life-giving blood of the Lamb. This is those who were "stone-dead" in their trespasses and sins, becoming those "Living Stones" to which Peter referred. This is God-growth for God's church.

5. Are Original Free Will Baptists making a difference? Yes. Are we near reaching our potential? No—we must make improvements and the above mentioned is not exhaustive but are certainly important.

QUESTION #2: WHAT WILL IT TAKE FOR ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTISTS TO MAKE A GREATER DIFFERENCE IN OUR COMMUNITIES AND THE LIVES OF THOSE WE SERVE?

1. Know who we are as Original Free Will Baptists and be secure in our identity—don't feel like we are in competition with sister churches and other denominations—but focus on the basic business of the church which is the first to worship God and second, to be God's witnesses to the world.

2. We have to break down the barriers that prevent us from being effective in our communities. We have to get past our phobias, whatever they may be. We believe in the General Atonement—which states that Christ died for ALL PEOPLE; therefore, it is our commission and mission to reach out to ALL PEOPLE, not just those who are like us.

3. Each church should develop—if it does not already have one—Mission Statement—I believe the popular wording now is Purpose Statement. Ours is a brief, inclusive, three-point statement—fairly easy to remember most days: To REACH as many people as possible for Jesus Christ; To PROVIDE a place of Christian Nurture, Instruction, Fellowship, and Service for all Believers; To GROW a local congregation of the Original Free Will Baptist faith tradition."

4. To become more effective we must resolve our Crisis in Leadership that many have been bringing to our attention for almost two decades. We have a major *Crisis in Leadership* regarding

(Continued on next page)

the pulpit. Thankfully, all of us are getting older—my brother and I have not been introduced as our “younger ministers” in several years. As a matter of fact, on Tuesday evening when many of us were recognized, I was placed among the older group—but I was in very good company. The problem—we don’t have enough young men and women coming in on the lower end of the age scale. Yes—I said women. If we know our history, we know that we have ordained women in the past and still have one ordained female pastor today. That should not be a battle that we have to fight again. Our sovereign God can call whomsoever God so desires to Gospel ministry. We have far weightier issues that we need to address our attention to and on which we need to spend our energy!

5. Leadership is a critical issue—and what paradigm of leadership you follow determines your choices and the results of your leadership choices. Our *Articles of Faith* states, the minister is to “have General Superintendence of the church as the chief administrative office.” The minister is not the “CEO” of the congregation and the minister is not the “Boss Hog,” of the church. Many ministers who develop a “god-complex” quite often end up as martyrs, leaving a trail of destruction behind them. On the other hand, as our denominational logo reminds us, the biblical model of leadership patterned after Jesus Christ is “Servant-Leadership.” What was it Jesus said? “The one among you who is greatest is the one who serves most.” Hebrews 13:17 says, “Obey your leaders and submit to them; for they are keeping watch over your souls, [as those] who...have to give an account...” (RSV). No church or denomination will rise above the level of its leadership, and I thank God for the vision that is working toward raising the bar for the leadership provided by the clergy as we better learn to “equip the saints.”

6. Why don’t we have enough young people responding to God’s call to the Gospel ministry today? I believe God is still calling, but unlike Samuel who realized God’s call on the third try many do not ever recognize God’s call or they intentionally ignore it. Why?

The pastoral ministry is an exacting calling—it is both a vocation and an avocation! It can be utterly frustrating and absolutely amazing in the sense of personal fulfillment and purpose for your life. In our denomination, the pay scale is one deterrent; we ministers appreciate our Minister’s Program board for addressing that issue—four years of college and then possible graduate school is an expensive and daunting challenge. It is a rough road fresh out of high school, but if you respond to God’s call to ministry somewhere in your adult life it is even more difficult. Then there are the inevitable problems in a congregation—some which are pastor generated and some that are caused by the “well-intentioned dragons” or some of the “Clergy-Killers” within the local church. But, brothers of the cloth, let’s be honest; there are some “church-killer clergy” out there as well. Maybe another reason is that our world is so “Market Driven.” We live in a world which sees the sole purpose for education as to make more money—any well-educated minister could spend that same amount of time and money in education in more lucrative fields—that is if the only motive for education is to make a higher income. The better motive for education is to become a better, more complete, better prepared person equipped to make positive contributions to society. In the church, education cannot make a minister, but it can take the rough stone, polish it and make of it a beautiful creation. It can help us to be more effective and more efficient—better stewards of the call to the Gospel ministry—to “give of our best to the Master” as the hymn states. We also need to work to create better prepared lay leadership within the local church. Our Sunday School Ministry board is doing a marvelous job in that direction—more of our churches need to avail themselves of this opportunity. For the past two years Cragmont has hosted a pastor/deacons retreat taught by Dr. David Hines, which I am told has been very well-received.

7. Another critical area directly impacting growth is our ministry to young people. We need to take a constructively critical look at our denomi-

national youth program—Cragmont is doing a great job as is Vandemere, but we need to make some major improvements in this twenty-first century. I am not advocating “throwing out the baby with the bath water;” neither do I believe in change just for the sake of change—tradition is not bad as long as the tradition is still good and effective. I had a mother in my study recently who said, “We really need to do something now to better reach our young people—I didn’t get right as a young person and I was reared the right way.” She stated that we need to do a better job with instilling “higher values,” and “higher standards,” which are two of the statements in Mount Olive College’s motto. She said, “Something is wrong when young people see nothing wrong with living together before marriage and sexual permissiveness and not even with a person they intend to marry.” She said some young people do get it right and that is great! Truly, we have an imperative to do all we can to lay the proper foundation for our youth so that “they can get it right,” when it comes to making important life choices.

8. Conclusion: Are we the chosen people or the frozen people...Is the enemy the Devil, the world, or is our greatest enemy in the pulpit and the pew? Just as with the first century Christians, neither Satan nor the world can destroy us if we deal with our own great sin of self, ego-centrism, and arrogant pridefulness. Jesus said, “...[On] this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it” [Matthew 16:18].

9. This “Living Stone,” of whom Peter spoke is the “stone” to which we must come if we are to become God’s sons and daughters—God’s witnesses in the world, God’s “Royal Priesthood” if you please. The stone laid in Zion, “a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame” (NIV). We must place ourselves and our ministries as clergy, laity, and a denomination upon that foundation stone laid by God. God accepts us only as we surrender self to become a part of His building! And God is just like all good builders, as

(Continued on next page)

Brother Sheffield stated yesterday. God has a specific select foundation upon which all workers must lay the stones of their lives. This idea is that of a new "race" of people being created by the very Word of God—both the Incarnate Word and the written Word. Believers from China, Russia, Asia, Africa, Italy, Europe, Iraq, the Americas, the Islands, Canada, and all the nations of the world

form a new "race" of people, by the Spirit of God. National origin, ethnicity, race, skin color, male nor female, liberal nor moderate, conservative nor fundamentalist, *King James Version* nor *New Revised Standard Version* nor *New International Version* matters ultimately. What matters is: are we willing to pay the cost of discipleship to become God's royal priesthood? Can Original Free Will Bap-

tists make a greater difference—it all depends upon how we answer the previous question! ▲

*Recommended reading of *The Cost of Discipleship* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer; *The Company of the Committed* by Elton Trueblood; *Think Like Jesus* by George Barna; or *How to Reach Secular People* by George C. Hunter III.

THE NORTH CAROLINA FOUNDATION FOR CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES

A New Opportunity to Advance the Work of Original Free Will Baptists

by W. Burkette Raper

Where there is no vision the people perish...
(Proverbs 29:18).

The vision of a Christian foundation that could provide supplemental support and help advance the work of Original Free Will Baptists goes back a decade or more. During this period, the vision has been discussed with various church leaders, including the Rev. Fred Baker, president of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, The Task Force on Education for Ministers, the directors of the Church Finance Association and the Executive Committee of the Convention.

With the encouragement of these and other leaders, the Foundation is now a reality. Articles of Incorporation have been filed with the North Carolina Secretary of State and the Internal Revenue Service has issued the required Employee Identification Number, (EIN). Initial officers of the Foundation are: president, Dr. W. Burkette Raper, 619 West Main Street, Mount Olive, NC 28365; vice president, Attorney Charles L. (Sonny) McLawhorn Jr., 501 Greenville Blvd, SE, Greenville, NC 27858; and secretary-treasurer, Dr. Donald Ribeiro, 3623 Frog Level Road, Greenville, NC 27834.

Mission

The purpose of the Foundation is defined in the Articles of Incorporation:

The corporation is organized and will be operated for the purposes of fostering and promoting Christian stewardship and promoting and providing support to ministries in North Carolina affiliated with or consistent with the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists and other charitable, educational, literary and Christian purposes.

Although the Foundation is chartered by the State of North Carolina, the outreach of its work will be both national and international. To fulfill its mission, the Foundation will:

1. Encourage Christian stewardship through estate planning as well as lifetime giving;
2. Provide and administer for individuals and families a program of planned giving, including life-income funds (charitable trusts and annuities), bequests, assigned assets, life insurance and other appropriate methods of giving;
3. Establish and professionally manage permanently endowed funds for the purpose of providing perpetual support to ministries, local churches and other Christian purposes;

4. Receive, manage, invest and distribute gifts made to the Foundation consistent with the intent of the donor; and

5. Provide donors an opportunity through one endowed fund to establish a legacy through the support of as many ministries as they choose.

In addition, the Foundation will encourage and generate support for new endeavors, including "The Task Force on Education for Ministers." An ultimate goal of the Foundation is to help provide funding for scholarships, grants and expanded educational opportunities that will enable every minister—and those entering other Christian vocations as well—to equip themselves for the highest level of effectiveness in fulfilling their calling.

Benefits and Services to Individual Donors

The Foundation will be a donor-driven ministry through which donors can experience spiritual fulfillment as well as financial advantages. Donors will experience spiritual fulfillment through the creation and support of permanently endowed funds that will

(Continued on next page)

perpetuate their faith and values to future generations. To assist donors in establishing endowed funds, or making other charitable gifts, the Foundation offers a carefully designed program of planned giving that includes significant financial benefits:

1. Funds which pay a guaranteed income for life to donors;
2. Funds which provide for the lifetime support of a survivor (spouse or other family member);
3. Tax-wise benefits, including charitable deductions on Federal and State income tax returns;
4. Special charitable deductions on gifts made with appreciated assets; and
5. Professional management of assets

for donors in event of their disability.

Because the tax implication of charitable giving is sometimes complex and intricate, the Foundation works with donors and their professional counsel to assure that all gifts conform to the Internal Revenue Code for the maximum deduction allowed by law. When properly planned, charitable gifts can often result in a net-increase of income to donors.

Services To Local Churches and Convention Ministries

The Foundation has no authority over any ministry of the Convention, nor will it be in competition with existing ministries in seeking gift support.

On the country, the Foundation encourages donors to endow funds and to make provisions in their estate plans for their home church and for the ministries of their choice. In addition, the Foundation is equipped to manage and invest endowed funds for those churches and ministries which desire its services.

The potential of the Foundation to help raise the tide for the future of Original Free Will Baptists will be limited only by our vision and commitment. God has entrusted to us all that we need to become the people He has called us to be. The purpose of the Foundation is to assist us in being good stewards of that trust. ▲

USING TALENTS

by Mrs. Richard Heath, Core Creek Church

(This article is re-printed from the editorial page of The Free Will Baptist, Wednesday, May 20, 1936 edition.)

"For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods" (Matthew 25:14). Before leaving home this man had lived daily with his servants, teaching them how to invest their profits to increase them, and how to work out each problem in the right way. But there came a time when he had to leave them, and each servant had to study out his own way of doing things, in accordance to his Master's will as taught before he left them.

Now let us imagine this master was Jesus. He came and lived with us on this earth a while, daily teaching and demonstrating the will and the power of God. When He knew that the time was drawing near for His trial and death, He delivered the great work unto His disciples, and told them to carry it on in the way He had shown them in accordance to the will of God. The disciples are, too, gone on to meet their reward and the great work is left for us (the church) to do. Are we using our talents? Or have we buried them? Are we calling Christ a hard Master? Do we have a light in this world? If so, do we let it shine? I do not see how so many of us can sleep. There is so much to do, and our lives are so short, but may we do our bit today. Christ expects of us our reasonable service. Our talents are given to us according to our abilities. If we are not able to have five, we have two or at least one. But not one of us has been left idle, we all have one or more talents. Whether or not we have found them depends largely on whether or not we have looked for them. The things we can do best and get the most joy from we seem to become a part of, and this is our place of course. Therefore, we should fill it gladly, knowing that we are spared and have a privilege to work for God.



The church is like a big engine. There are some big parts and there are some very little ones, and although the major parts seem to do so much more than the little ones, the engine would not operate without the work of the little ones. Thus it is seen that their place is just as important to make the machine work properly. Every duty is different but all are aiming at the one great cause, that to make the engine go. So it is here with people, our talents are different, but the one great cause is the aim of all to make the kingdom of heaven go.

In using our talents, we are not only blessed with eternal life, but also we are prosperous here in the world. We are made happier and those about us reap a benefit from our fruitful lives. If we would be members of Christ and joint heirs with Him, it becomes our privilege to study the plan which He laid down for us, and then live it. For a complete outline of this plan, we get parts of it from several writers of the New

Testament, and put them together in this manner:

1. We must pray always, even for our enemies.
2. We must love the Lord, putting His kingdom first.
3. We must be zealous in doing His will.
4. We must honor our parents.
5. We must love the church.
6. We must love and do good to all men.
7. We must love and forgive our enemies.
8. We must practice the Christian graces which are: humility, meekness, mercy, self-denial, compassion, firmness, and be submissive to His will.

May every reader pray for me that I may use my talents in such a way that will be pleasing to God.



**September
is
DISASTER
RELIEF
MONTH
for
Original Free
Will Baptists**



Sunday, September 25, 2005

Good Samaritan Sunday



Build My Church

1 Corinthians 3:11

Home Missions & Evangelism

Our Assignment:

As stated in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, the Board of Home Missions and Evangelism has been assigned:

1. To supervise all missionary and church extension work within the United States.
2. To oversee the formulation and promotion of church-sponsored scouting programs and the God and Country awards.
3. To promote evangelism.

Our Aim:

To spur our Church to implement the prophetic vision to include the multitudes who have been and continue to be ignored or invited into our churches.

Our Endeavor:

Is to follow our Assignment and Aim in planting churches, assisting the declining church, chartering scout units, helping our churches reach its community through effective evangelism and develop Disaster Relief Services that follows our Master's Plan.

Our 5 Year Goal:

- Church Planting: 5 Spanish Mission/Churches; 5 Mission/Churches
- A determined effort to assist the declining churches through the Harvest Covenant Program
- Charter 15 Boy Scout units
- Implement our Out-Reach/In-Reach Evangelism and Spiritual Transformation Training
- Develop programs for Youth Experiences through our Disaster Relief Services
- Develop 2 "Andrew's Place" (thrift store & soup kitchen)
- Secure a facility to sufficiently serve our Disaster Relief Services
- To increase our volunteer membership for The Harvest Connection Disaster Relief Services to 200

Board of Directors

Mr. Howard McPherson, *Chairman*
Mr. Peyton Lee, *Vice Chairman*
Reverend Bill Mobley, *Secretary*
Reverend Bruce Jones
Reverend Braxton Carter
Reverend Mrs. Carlee Stallard
Reverend Lewis Forsythe

Staff

Reverend David C. Hansley
Executive Director

Mrs. Laura Monroe
Administrative Assistant

Disaster Relief Team

Mr. Roy Wetherington, *Coordinator*
Reverend Harold Swinson, *Food Coordinator*
Reverend Tim Heath, *Tent Coordinator*
Mr. Bob Alexander, *Warehouse Coordinator*
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Cook, *Casework Coordinators*

Home Missions & Evangelism

PO Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513

252-746-4963 assistant@ofwbhomemissions.org

A Ministry of The Convention of Original Free Will Baptists



EVERY PENNY COUNTS!

For several years, youth groups, Sunday School classes, and other organizations have been saving pennies for the work and ministry of Home Missions and Evangelism. It goes without saying—EVERY penny does really count. This is especially true since we are strictly dependent upon the people of our church for our income.

The Board of Home Missions and Evangelism continues to provide financial assistance to our Director/Pastors and the Mission/Churches. We are grateful to those organizations and churches that provide the funding to "TOUCH LIVES FOR A LIFETIME."

During April, which is Home Missions and Evangelism Month for all Original Free Will Baptists, 19 youth and 13 adults, under the direction of Mrs. Cathy Crumpler, Educational Director for Snow Hill Church near Mount Olive, NC, gathered to COUNT EVERY PENNY.

The total raised in soda bottles was \$326. SO EVERY PENNY DOES COUNT!



Home Missions and Evangelism
"Touching Lives for a Lifetime"



BE MY WITNESS

by Willem van der Plas

How does a person become a missionary for the Lord?

In general, missionaries are restless, looking forward to witness to any person who has never heard the Gospel. They have a passionate love for God the Father and for Jesus Christ, knowing that their lives can be meaningful or meaningless. Meaningful if they are able to respond to the inner-call by witnessing Jesus Christ as Savior. Meaningless as long as they have had no opportunity to serve in World Missions, because their hearts lack inner peace, which brings them into a struggle with their conscience.

True servants are driven by a spirit of which they later discover that it has been God's Spirit who moved them to achieve performances of excellence, perceiving those facts as blessings and gifts from their Lord who is leading them into His service wherever this may be.

Missionaries have in common that they are, mostly deeply, concerned about people who live in a corrupted, godless world and suffer a godless life.

Often, I have viewed two kinds of testimony to people: the meaningless and the meaningful witnessing. We need not to proclaim Hell and doom to people. Most godless people have an awareness of the existence of Hell and damnation; there is no need to convince them about these facts; they live in the frosty climate of spiritless materialism and selfishness. Another meaningless mission activity is baptizing as many people as possible to show-off the number of people who are personal converts. Such witnessing is vain and the faith of most baptized persons vanishes as fast as raindrops in the desert. Conversions by emotion and fear are mostly short lasting.

Meaningful witnessing has the potency to be everlasting. Meaningful witnessing is to proclaim God the Fa-

ther and His precious Son, Jesus Christ, as the advocate at the High Court of God the Father. Meaningful is the servant's passion for God the Father and for Jesus Christ on the first place. Meaningful is also to share compassionate divine love with people who do not know that there is a Savior and that there is an Almighty God who judges their lives. Meaningful witnessing is to understand the harshness of worldly life as a struggle without the comforting strength of a caring Lord who provides peace in the heart of any person who depends on Him. Meaningful witnessing is walking to the cross of Jesus with unbelievers, showing godless people that Jesus suffered for the renewal of their spirit. Then we walk further to the garden, telling others that we believe not in a dead, but in a Risen Lord who loves us and wants to be near to us daily and forever. Can that be emotional? Yes, very much, when the person to whom we witness shows that he or she is liberated.

Leading people to Jesus is not an easy task. It is hard and difficult. It demands much patience and perseverance. The word "Islam" means submission to Allah and is important for the Moslem. "Be my witness" means to submit to the command of Christ in surrender to His will.

How can we witness him? The Gospels are full of examples about the way Jesus went around and about the way He sent His apostles into the world. Jesus has shown to be troubled by injustice, to be compassionate, passionate, concerned, self-giving, obedient; not self-seeking, but always placing the glory of God the Father on the very first place.

By obeying His command and following His example, we can become meaningful witnesses in the Kingdom of God on Earth. Serving Him in such a way will certainly trigger opposition

as well from outside as from inside Christianity. Proselytizers are always around like hyenas when godless people have received the seeds of the Gospel. They are the ones who constantly count their converts, which is another meaningless activity. True witnesses know that the Lord Himself has drawn His followers. The converts have to understand this to be sure that they do not follow a witness but that they respond to the divine message. The song does not teach us, "Pull them to yourself" but "Bring them in." It is meaningful to invite people for God's banquet.

At Christmas time, I have often heard people say: "God loves everybody." In principle this is true: "God loves His creation." However, the problem is that God hates sin and we can read about that throughout the Old and the New Testaments. Billions of people on Earth need to hear the Good News. They need to discover the true Light that can turn the darkness of their loveless lives. Many millions live without hope and future, following a kind of survival strategy. We know that mothers have thrown their just born babies in a trash container to be able to survive themselves. Our world does not need wars and violations of hatred against one another; our world needs to know salvation in Christ that God the Father surely will provide. To think about "Peace On Earth" has become a utopia. Still we live with this simple command of Jesus: "Be my witnesses."

It happened in September 1965, when I joined the conversation of some foreign mission students on the Mission Academy in Leiden, the Hendrick Creamer Zendings Hoge School, for the first time, that an active young missionary said to me: "Hi, Willem, come on and join the fools." Why did he say this? From all sides we heard critical

(Continued on next page)

remarks, we were continuously qualified as cruel parents who thought about themselves and not about their up-growing children. It was scary. The children have been lonesome sometimes, we have missed them very much, but all together none of us would ever wish to miss the experience to live among people of total different background, culture and tradition. The youngest, Caroline and Dirk, saw advertisements of ice cream and pies in magazines and asked us: "Are these paintings...or do such things really exist?" The "other" world seemed to be an unrealistic dream. The wonderful conclusion of all of us is still: "It has never been a sacrifice; on the contrary, it was an adventure to miss all the wealth of the west and to depend on "primitive" people to survive. The Turkana people were surviving on raw blood, milk, and the meat of their animals. They made clothes out of raw

hides, dried in the sun after they slaughtered an animal. It may appear to be foolish, but to be a witness of Jesus among such people is a great joy and enriches the mind and gives depth to the heart, because you learn to live at the basics of life.

Tezdzan wrote me last month, as she called it, "a confession." "At the time that I came to work with Lydia and you as a cleaner, while I still was a Moslem, I thought: "These people are crazy to leave their country, their children, their home, and everything that is good to them, choosing to come to live here in this miserable country. The man must be crazy to take so many books with him and to spend so much money on such things. However, later when I studied myself I was delighted with the treasure of Christian literature that I could use from your library. At that time, I was just happy to have work, to earn some money for our daily life at

home. Now I understand that I am blessed with the special task to speak about Jesus to people who do not know His love.'" It is a joy to be a witness for Jesus.

The command to witness remains of present interest; it receives priority in our young church. The young believers need to learn that they have to be witnesses for Jesus. It has to be said to them without ceasing that they have received the task and privilege to proclaim salvation to all who do not know their Savior yet. Most of them have no money, but they have a tongue to speak. Be my witnesses.

What a meaningful task we received to feed people who are hungry, to buy medicines for people who are sick, clothes and shoes for people who are naked, to visit the people who are sick and even in prison, and to show compassion in the name of Jesus our Lord. Be my meaningful witness.

PIEDRAS NEGRAS, MEXICO

by Shannon McLaughlin

When God calls you to do something, you do it. That is exactly what several of us did when we went to Mexico on June 12. Our location was Piedras Negras, Mexico. Our mission was to spread the Word of God and show His loving kindness. The mission team spent one night in San Antonio where we were able to visit Ms. Timmons. She was a fascinating woman, whom I did not know before, but I will never forget. The mission team missed her greatly and she will continue to be in our thoughts and prayers.

When we left San Antonio, we drove into Mexico where I was full of anticipation and eager to get to know our Mexican brothers and sisters that I had heard so much about. I wasn't sure how I was going to communicate with them but, nevertheless, I was ready to get there and see them. My first thoughts after getting to the church where the women would be doing Bible study and Vacation Bible School was that the church was simple but so comfortable. There was a welcome and homey feeling to all of the churches we visited. Right away I felt a blessing just being there. The Mexican women welcomed us with open arms and were very eager to learn about God and His Word. Throughout the week, I got to know many of the women as well as their children. They were all so forgiving of my lack of Spanish. They knew that I, as well as the whole team, was there out of love—for God. It's amazing how God's love is universal. The people I met during the week have changed my outlook and my thinking forever. Everyone, no matter their ethnicity, needs to know God and to hear what great things He does for us.

Visiting the men's worksite was also a blessing. The men poured out their sweat and hard work each day in order to make their place of worship a place where anyone can come into and know God. With the help of our Mexican brothers, the men were able to battle through the heat as well as some truss issues and put a new roof on their church. Once again, if God has a plan His work will get done.

This was my first mission trip and I will definitely go again in the future. The one thing that I have taken back from this experience is that there is a huge need for the mission field. There are people out there who really do need to know about Jesus and for one reason or another haven't heard about Him. As Christians, we should spread the news of God's Word and offer prayer and support to all of those in need. If missionary work is not what God calls you to do, please continue to pray for missions and support those who are trying to do what God has called them to do.



TRAVEL TIME IN PALAWAN, PHILIPPINES

by Pastor Anel F. Cuba

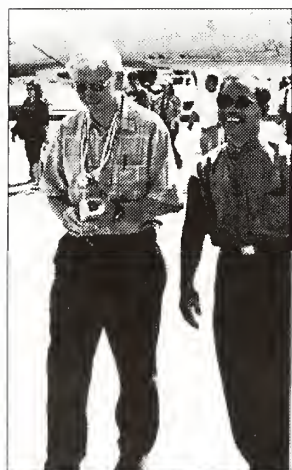
How wonderful and pleasant it is for God's people to live in harmony. It is a real joy to report on the visitation of our beloved Executive Director of the Board of Foreign Missions, the Rev. Harold Jones, April 16-19, 2005, together with some members of the Board and the Mission Director, the Rev. Nerry M. Peralta. For the very first time in the history we had almost visited all the 49 local churches in Palawan. It was a long, winding, and dusty distance, but filled with the joy of serving Christ.

We traveled from southern to northern and then the central part of Palawan. Our most targeted focus was to visit the special projects where we had budgeted and resumed con-

struction. There were two special projects that were already finished. The Roxas Church building and the Narra Church building. The Narra Church was dedicated April 16, 2005, with Rev. Harold Jones as the speaker. We also went to some churches and met workers for unexpected visits and prayed for the ministry in their places.

There are things I will never forget on our trip. The blessings of the Lord are truly abundant in the church. He never allowed us to be hungry and He protected us safely from harm and danger on our trip. I enjoyed the days visiting my co-workers and the churches.

To God be the glory!



The arrival of our beloved, the Rev. Harold Jones at the Puerto Princesa Airport.



The Rev. Harold Jones at the stairway to Calawag FWB Church.



Some members of the Board with the Mission Director, the Rev. Nerry M. Peralta (second from right).

SOWING GOD'S WORD RAMOS ARIZPE, COAH

by Antonio P. Escobar



During this month, we have been working with a group of children of different ages to whom we have been teaching Bible stories, and the memorizing of Bible texts. Through this media they are learning to know the Lord, and His love for their life; and as they too should know the Lord.

Many of these children are making an effort to attend the mission, though their parents are not converts, and they prohibit the children from attending. However, the Lord has helped the youngsters let the parents allow them to come to the mission. The Lord is manifesting Himself in a very special way as we visit the homes of these children and talk with their parents. These parents have allowed us to witness to them of the Lord Jesus, and some of them have now begun to attend the mission. Others have opened their homes so that we might speak to them about the Word of God.

We believe the Lord is giving us the victory daily here in this place. We are praying that these families will be converted to the Lord Jesus Christ, and become a part of the family of God.

*Please support
the Foreign Missions
Ministry*



SECOND ANNUAL PAPER DRIVE

Friday night, July 22, the residents and staff of the Children's Home were treated to an evening at the Carolina Mudcats, Zebulon, NC. The ballgame was the grand finale of several weeks of collections for the Second Annual Paper Product/Cleaning Supply Drive. Bill Doane, president of the Spring Branch Church Layman's League, Walstonburg, NC, organized the drive. They sent invitations to layman's leagues from sister churches in the Central Conference inviting them to support this campaign, and also arranged various product collection sites outside of several retail stores such as Wal-Mart, Sam's Club, and Dollar General.

Over 350 games tickets were sold to Free Will Baptist churches that attended the Mudcats game. Due to rain, the game was cancelled after six innings of play; the Mudcats won the game, but they were not the only winner. The Children's Home won the blessings from the generous people who gave to help supply our needs. We received a great supply of paper towels and toilet tissue, and the estimate for laundry detergent was enough to wash 4,500 loads. Also, there were cleaning supplies and other items donated. All of these donations will help offset the weekly bills for the six cottages (35+ kids) we have.

The staff and residents of the Children's Home extend heartfelt thanks for your generosity to each one who participated. Although our thanks may seem small, your reward will be great.

Matthew 25:40: "And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."



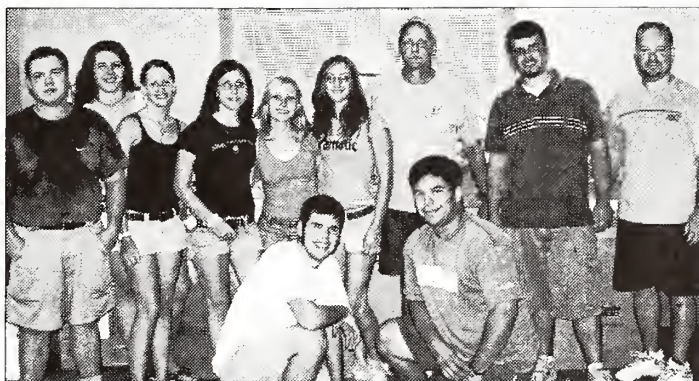
Bill Doane, (right hand side) and group delivering supplies.



An evening at the game.



Paper drive collection site.



Young adults in action to help others.



Bringing supplies to the Mudcats game

CAMPUS VISITS

We appreciate the visits from different churches and groups. Some groups come for tours, and some come to share a meal with the children. Here are pictures of recent visitors.



Everett Chapel Church SS Class after sharing games and a meal.



Friendship Church Youth delivering school supplies.



JR's Outlet employee delivers three cases of body lotion samples.

ALUMNI HOMECOMING CELEBRATED

On July 10, over 160 people gathered at the Children's Home to celebrate the 59th Annual Alumni Homecoming. The speaker for the day was Mr. Charles Warren, alumnus. After the service, lunch was catered by Bill's Barbecue and served in the Whitley Center. Everyone seemed to have a great time as they sat around and reminisced about the days when they lived at the Children's Home. They took time to get reacquainted with old friends and make new ones.



Lunch with friends.



Speaker, Charles Warren, Alumnus



SUNDAY SCHOOL MINISTRY

SPREAD THE NEWS OF SEPTEMBER OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN OFWB SUNDAY SCHOOL MINISTRY

September 9–10, 2005

Faith Church, Morehead City, NC

September 16–17, 2005

Whaley's Chapel Church, Richlands, NC

At these two locations: *Awakening the Sleeping Giant—Maximizing Your Sunday School* will be led by Ms. Mary Dudley and *The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government* will be led by Mr. Ronnie Taylor.

The Friday night session will be held 7–10 P.M. and the Saturday session will be held 9 A.M.–1 P.M. Only light refreshments will be served at each session.

September 6, 2005 • 7–9 P.M.

Union Chapel Church, Plymouth, NC

Workshop: *Five Handles for Getting a Grip on Sunday School—Handle 1*

Led by Ms. Mary Dudley

September 8, 2005 • 7:30–9:30 P.M.

Marlboro Church, Farmville, NC

Workshop: *Using Technology to Spread the Word*

Led by Ms. Mary Dudley and others

September 19, 2005 • 7–9 P.M.

Daniel's Chapel Church, Wilson, NC

Workshop: *To Be Announced*

Led by Ms. Mary Dudley

**For further information concerning these and any other item of interest
concerning Christian Education opportunities, contact:**

Ms. Mary Dudley

P.O. Box 39

Ayden, NC 28513

(252) 746-4963

<director@ofwbsundayschool.org>



CONVENTION UPDATE

The reports of God's wonderful blessings continue to come into the Headquarters office. Your response to these reports has been tremendous and we thank each of you for your inspiring comments. It is always exciting to learn what God is doing in our churches and around our denomination.

We would love to hear from your church. Tell us about souls being saved, baptisms, new members, special events, revivals, concerts, etc. We will be glad to post these as soon as possible, plus they will be included in this monthly update column. Your enthusiasm is truly contagious. Let's keep the excitement going. Here are the praise reports and news items we have received this month.

Brad Williamson, pastor of LA GRANGE Church writes:

Buddy, I wanted to pass on what a great week of camp we had this year with GYC2. Several first-time decisions were made, many rededications as well. In fact, there were 3 first-time decisions from our church... We are looking forward to having a baptism service as soon as possible. Also, our church was blessed with many rededications.

Neal Cox, pastor of WINTERGREEN Church sends this information:

Buddy, As you well know...the Lord moved mightily on the mountain this year... We had two young people from Wintergreen at CYC to make a first-time profession of faith and give their life to Jesus Christ and one from Wintergreen to make that first-time profession at GYCII (as you also know since you had the great privilege to lead Junior in his dedication prayer). We are currently dealing with all three concerning baptism as the first step of a new disciple. Praise be unto the Lord for His great acts of justification and reconciliation.

Linda Weathersby from WINTERVILLE Church gives this praise item:

We had a new convert last Sunday (July 24) at Winterville Church; she and her husband also joined the church.

Barry Stallings, pastor of PLEASANT GROVE Church in Pikeville tells us:

Hey Buddy, after reading all these reports you have been sending, one could ask: "Are we having a revival among our Original Free will Baptist Churches?" If so, let us all praise Him for it. This upcoming Sunday night (August 7) we will baptize 5 more at our church, which brings our total of baptisms for the year to 28. Also, Brother Buddy, one of our 40-year-old deacons made it public yesterday that God has called him into the ministry. I do praise the Lord for His continued blessing of raising up men out of our churches to preach the Gospel.

Pastor David DeHart of PEOPLE'S CHAPEL Church in

Elm City reports excitement among his people as a result of four recent baptisms.

Here's some more news from some of our churches that are on-the-move:

The Young Disciples, the contemporary Christian youth choir from our church (PINE LEVEL FWB/Western Conference) just returned from their successful summer choir tour. I'm very proud to serve as the group's director. This year, the group sang for the service men and women at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida. Richard Holmes, one of our FWB ministers, is a chaplain at MacDill and arranged the services. We held a "Troop Appreciation Concert" on Saturday night, July 9 and sang for the morning Gospel service on Sunday morning. On Sunday night, we sang at the First Baptist Church of Port Tampa. On Monday, July 11, the group presented a concert of contemporary Christian music at Universal Studios Theme Park in Orlando. A total of 60 group members (we have 68 in the group) and 21 chaperones participated in the tour.

The group is made up of middle school, high school, and college age students. They sing songs made famous by recording artists such as Point of Grace, Casting Crowns, FFH, Avalon, and others. Our new season begins in August 2005. Churches interested in hosting the group for a concert can contact me at the church at (919) 965-6740 or by e-mail at <youngdisciples1@aol.com>. Our calendar is filling up fast! Thanks!

Donald Coates/Pine Level Free Will Baptist Church

I liked the news item updates from our churches. It was most encouraging. I look forward to receiving this kind of update and appreciate you taking the time to do this as a service to our churches.

STONEY CREEK Church broadcasts its 11 A.M. Worship Service live each Sunday morning on radio station WKIX, 102.3 FM. This station can be received in a large area surrounding Goldsboro (Wilson, Snow Hill, Kinston, Mount Olive, Smithfield, Clayton, etc.) We would be delighted if other churches would encourage their shut-ins and homebound to tune in on Sunday mornings and join us for an hour of inspiring worship.

Thanks, Gary M. Bailey, Senior Pastor

BRANCH CHAPEL Church will have, for one night only, Evangelist David Ring on August 29 at 7 P.M. Everyone is invited to attend. The church is located on Highway 96, five miles north of Selma, NC. We are excited and hope that all of our friends will come.

Terry Dennis, Pastor

THE NEED FOR A REDEEMER

Selected Text: 1 Peter 1:16–21

*by The Reverend Garland Suggs
Convention Executive Committee*

Mankind's need for a Redeemer began in the garden of Eden. God had created a world of perfection, a world with few limitations. God communed with Adam and Eve and had a personal and intimate relationship with them. And yet, as we know, Adam and Eve fell to sin and lost their relationship with God, and thus began God's plan to send Jesus as our Redeemer. This redemption would come at a high cost to God's only Son. Sin brings death and mankind's Redeemer must be without sin and able to conquer death so that we could be reunited with God.

I. Christ as Our Redeemer (Isaiah 53:4–6)

- Bearing the burden and blame for our sins.
- Our sin demanded restitution ("But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities..." Isaiah 53:5).

2. The Cost of Redemption (1 Peter 1:16–21)

- Greater than corruptible things such as silver and gold.
- The Precious Blood of Christ ("...a lamb without blemish and without spot"—1 Peter 1:19).

The Bible creates a beautiful illustration of love and redemption when we go back to Calvary. There, Mary, the mother of Jesus, wept at the foot of the cross. As she wept bitterly, she was communicating in a language that God always understands. God, Himself, turned

PULPIT AIDS



(In an effort to keep our churches focused on the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists' annual theme, the Office of Convention Services is offering a monthly presentation outline to use at your discretion. No credit is necessary and you may add to this outline based upon your needs.)

His back on the world because of the sin and suffering that Jesus was carrying. Yet, through great sacrifice comes great reward. Philip P. Bliss created an anthem to Christ's sacrifice and our reward in his song, "My Redeemer":

"Sing, oh sing of my Redeemer,
With His blood, He purchased me;
On the cross He sealed my pardon,
Paid the debt and made me free."

Philip Bliss would get a glimpse into the sacrifice of a redeemer. As Bliss was traveling home at Christmastime in 1876, his train plunged 60 feet into a ravine and caught on fire; amazingly Bliss survived the fall. Yet, he returned to the wreck in an attempt to save his wife and when he did they both perished. After the accident, the words to the hymn, "My Redeemer" was found in his trunk. Bliss in his attempt to save his wife experienced the sacrifice of a redeemer, but he was unable to realize complete redemption. Like all mankind we can know sacrifice, but we cannot save ourselves; we need the sacrifice of one "without blemish or spot"—Jesus Christ.

Attention: All Mount Olive College Alumni

Save the Date!

Alumni Weekend

November 18–20, 2005

For more details: <www.moc.edu> click on Alumni



RETIREMENT HOMES MINISTRY

CONTINUING TO SERVE



We are able to share some great news this month. We have added a new client, Ms. Betty Johnson, to our list.

Betty Beddard Johnson was born and raised in Pitt County. She joined Elm Grove Church at the early age of nine and was baptized in Contentnea Creek. She moved to Raleigh where she lived her adult life.

Betty has a daughter, Deborah Best of Raleigh and a son, Harvey Johnson, who is deceased. She has four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Gardening, puzzles, and family are the things she enjoys. She retired from Swain's Steakhouse after 30 years and worked for Goodwill Industries until 2004.

Thanks to Ray Wetherington, Bob Alexander, and the truck and trailer supplied by the Disaster Relief Ministry, Ms. Betty was moved into our duplex in Ayden on Thursday, July 28, 2005. This was an exciting time for all of us. Betty was not only getting a new place to call home, but was getting it as an early birthday present. Her birthday was on Friday, July 29.

When we are able to serve our people, it just blesses my heart and I feel this is an important mission of our churches.

We now have 17 clients and have interviewed two more who need our assistance. I am asking now, NO I AM PLEADING, that all our churches continue to lift up this ministry in your prayers and with your financial support so we can serve our people as the needs arise. Without an increase in donations, we are not going to be able to add any more clients at this time. Please help.

If you would like to contact Ms. Betty to wish her a belated birthday or to welcome her as part of this ministry, her address is: Betty Johnson, 4116B Lee Street, Ayden, NC 28513.



MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE HAS OPENINGS FOR SPRING SEMESTER

Ready to start college but missed the fall deadline? We have openings for Spring 2006 for new freshmen and transfer students. Contact us at <admissions@moc.edu> or by calling us at (800) 653-0854. Scholarships are still available on a limited basis. Find us online at <www.moc.edu> where you can also see our virtual campus tour and a webcast of the new building construction.

Our programs work for working adults

Enrollment opportunities exist for working adults at Mount Olive College locations in Mount Olive, New Bern, Wilmington, Research Triangle Park, and at our newest site in Washington, NC.

- Upper level accelerated evening programs in management and organizational development, criminal

justice, religion, and early childhood are in place for adults who have already earned 60 or more semester credit hours of transferrable credit. Contact the location nearest you for details. Send e-mail to <admissions@moc.edu> or call (800) 653-0854.

- Adults who have little or no college can enter the Heritage program, which now leads to an Associate degree, at all of these locations.
- Management of Information Systems, a new upper level program for adults who want to enter management positions, will be offered at the Mount Olive location in February of 2006. Other locations will offer this program if the need exists. Contact the location nearest you for details or contact Allison Sullivan

at <asullivan@moc.edu> or call (800) 653-0854

- Criminal Justice Administration will be offered online starting October 1, 2005. If you are interested, contact Allison Sullivan at <asullivan@moc.edu> or (800) 653-0854 or call the location nearest you for details.
- Our new site in Washington, NC, is conveniently located on Hwy. 264 between Greenville and New Bern. Watch for our promotional information soon. If you are interested in starting the management and organizational development program at our Washington location this fall, contact Julia Pacilli, program representative at New Bern at (800) 868-8479 or e-mail her at <jpacilli@moc.edu>.

BRIDGE BUILDERS APPRECIATION DINNER

Lois K. Murphy Regional Center
Mount Olive College
Saturday, September 24, 2005 at 6 P.M.



The annual Bridge Builders Appreciation Dinner is provided as a gesture of the College's gratitude to Free Will Baptists for their support at the annual dinners. To help Free Will Baptists understand the ministry of the College and the educational service it provides for its students, the Concert Choir and Free Spirit, a vocal ensemble, will provide a program of sacred selections. Under the direction of Dr. Alan Armstrong, professor of music, the Concert Choir and Free Spirit minister to churches in the region as part of their music ministry.

This event honors the Bridge Builders from the 2005 dinners; however, all friends of the College are invited. Bridge Builders are those who made unrestricted gifts of \$100 or more at their county dinners. They have made an outstanding contribution to the advancement of Mount Olive College.

Reply Form

(Please return by Tuesday, September 20, 2005)

___ Yes! I plan to attend the Bridge Builders Appreciation Dinner, Saturday, September 24, 2005. There will be ___ in my party attending.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone Number _____

(include area code)

Church _____

All Friends of Mount Olive College are invited.

Please mail to:

Mrs. Jean Ackiss
Mount Olive College
634 Henderson Street
Mount Olive, NC 28365

(919) 658-7744

(800) 653-0854

<jackiss@moc.edu>

NEW PROGRAM OFFERED AT MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

This spring Mount Olive College unveiled the newest in a long time of programs that have been specifically designed to accommodate the needs of its growing adult student population. The program, called Management of Information Systems or MIS for short, focuses on using technology as a tool to manage information in the

context of business. The program includes a core of courses focusing on Management of Information Systems, Systems Analysis and Design, Database Management System, Networks and Data Communications, and Strategic Information Systems Planning.

According to Ted Janicki, chair of the Department of Computer Infor-

mation Systems, "Business is an integral part of everyday life and the people who facilitate business transactions play a big role in business success. That is the reason that Mount Olive College has developed this MiS major...to help students develop the skills needed for doing business well into the future."

SCHOLARSHIP ESTABLISHED IN MEMORY OF LEIGH HAMM

On the first Sunday in August 2005, the announcement was made at Free Union Church, Greene County that The Loretta Leigh Hamm Endowed Scholarship Fund had been established at Mount Olive College. The Leigh Hamm Scholarship will be awarded annually to a student attending Mount Olive College from Free Union Church or Westside Church in Kinston. Leigh grew up in Free Union Church and was baptized by the Rev. C. L. Patrick and she joined Westside Church on November 16, 1997, after moving to Kinston.

It was discovered the first Sunday in August 2003 that Leigh had died in her sleep during the night before. Leigh had some health problems and was not well physically, but it was unbelievable that she was gone at the young age of forty. She was so outgoing and active and loved to be with people.

Leigh means "sheltered from the storm" and at first you may think that was not the case. However, those who knew Leigh knew she was in the palm of one of God's hands and He used His other hand to shelter her from the full effects of the storms of life.

Leigh was an instructor of cosmetology at Lenoir Community College for ten years. She cared about her students, both in and out of the classroom, and her students always had a high rate of passing the exam.



Leigh Hamm

She was a favorite teacher of all of her students.

Leigh was diagnosed with asthma at a very young age. The disease may have slowed her down at times, but it never stopped her. She lived life to the fullest. She enjoyed all types of sporting activities and tried those she had never tried before; she liked a challenge.

She liked to have a good time and laugh, and could laugh at herself. One pastor remembers, "Leigh taught me that if you want to enjoy life, learn to laugh at yourself. She told me, 'You might as well laugh at yourself, others laugh at you. Don't take yourself so seriously. Laugh every chance you get.'"

Leigh was a determined and

ambitious person. She did not let sickness stand in the way of achieving her dreams and goals. Some of her achievements include: having as many friends as possible, cutting and styling hair, teaching, skiing, white water rafting, maturing in her faith and being active in church, and owning her home, which was completed shortly before her death. She learned not to take life for granted and she squeezed the most out of life as possible.

Leigh loved all young people, especially her nieces and nephews. She taught the children at church and many were proud to model a "Miss Leigh" haircut. It is fitting that this memorial will assist young people in getting a college education and prepare for life—a life as full as Leigh Hamm's.

Life is not measured in years, but in what a person gives and the number of people they touch. Leigh may not have lived long in years, but the impact she made cannot be measured. Through The Leigh Hamm Scholarship, she will continue to touch students and "Leigh Hamm will never be forgotten."

Leigh's parents, Stuart and Loretta Hamm of Snow Hill, established the scholarship soon after her death. Her family, friends, and Westside and Free Union Churches have made gifts to the endowed fund. The first recipient of the Leigh Hamm Scholarship, a freshman at Mount Olive College, will be named this fall.

REFLECTIONS FROM LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER'S 2005 CAMP WEEK

by Cristy and Curtis Ramsey
2005 Lighthouse Keeper's Camp Week Co-Directors

Summertime is passing quickly and the kids are heading back to school. New friends, new teachers, and new faces will be met each day. It seems all of these experiences were just happening the previous year. Of course, summer gave the kids time off to enjoy a vacation. Going back to school, many of our youth will reminisce about their summertime activities and compare who had the better summer. We feel certain at the start of many conversations during the beginning of school, friends who had the opportunity to attend youth camps this year will relate experiences to each other. We are thinking that a few of those conversations will be about Lighthouse Keeper's Week 2005 at Camp Vandemere.

Lighthouse Keeper's Week saw 60 campers and numerous counselors arrive, on Sunday and Monday, July 26-27 ready to begin a week of youth camp. We had no idea God's work had started from just the mere assembling of these young people. God's presence, from the start, was in everything. God made all the right connections and used all the counselors

and worship speakers to bring a spiritual blessing to all who were willing to receive. The singing, devotions, and craft time was well spent in helping everyone to see the wonderful love God gives through a peaceful setting such as Camp Vandemere. On Wednesday evening, through Mrs. Bren Best's lesson, God wrapped His arms around 27 young people's hearts and called them to proclaim their faith in Him. Those 27 young people walked out of that chapel born again. Thursday night saw God's powerful grace again, with five more decisions for His service. Folks, it is so moving to see God's awesome power, but when God moves in a young person's life, "Holy Bumps" just start jumping around all over your body.

Friday morning saw many tears of joy and sorrow due to the fact camp week was coming to an end. For many, it will be the beginning of a great walk with the Lord. Many have a better understanding what it is to be a Christian, as well as an Original Free Will Baptist, but it will be up to us, leaders in their churches, to help

them in maturing in Christ. Honestly, it seemed harder to us, as camp co-directors, to bring this week to a close as it probably was to the young people. Sure, good-bye was tough but those 60 campers had taught us memorable lessons in God's service. As one of the last campers was riding off, out of the driveway of the camp, he shouted "Thank you for saving my soul." We pointed our fingers to Heaven and shouted, "God saved you; never forget!" Camp has come and gone, but these memories from this unforgettable week will definitely last a lifetime for those young people, as well as anyone and everyone having anything to do with "Lighthouse Keeper's Week 2005."

Camp Vandemere is always in need of your prayers as well as your support! This is such a wonderful ministry! Years ago, who would have ever thought that a little camp in Vandemere, NC, would have become what it is today—a spiritual retreat for young and old alike. Thank you for your support and prayers so this ministry can keep touching lives. May God richly bless each one of you.

UPCOMING EVENTS

In the October issue of *The Free Will Baptist*, more information will be shared about our 2005 camping season and the Fall "Singin' By the River" weekend. A time has been set aside at the camp for a Boy Scout Weekend, September 9-10. The State Layman's League is sponsoring this weekend, and if your church has a group of boys who would like to

attend and are not in an organized Boy Scout troop, please contact the camp to set up accommodations for this time of fellowship.

Opportunity is still available for your church and organization to book a weekend retreat at the camp. If any group or church would like information about the camp, please contact our Camp Manager, Wesley

Taylor. He can be reached at the camp by telephone: (252) 745-3171 or cell phone: (252) 514-3222. Again, thanks go out to everyone for your support and prayers in helping Camp Vandemere to realize the mission at hand to be a spiritual retreat for young and old alike in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

HICKORY CHAPEL INSTALLS CHURCH OFFICERS



On July 17, a special service was held at Hickory Chapel Church in Ahoskie, for this year. The Rev. Mike Williams gave the charge to the elected officers for their new ministries, and the charge to the congregation for their support and prayers for all of the new inductees.

We are looking forward to what God has in store for Hickory Chapel this year. God is already moving in

the hearts of the people; in May of this year Hickory Chapel for the first time in its history worked hard and established its first "Mission Statement." With this years' officers, we are working and looking forward to fulfilling the vision God has put in our hearts.

Pray for our ministry workers as we will pray for you. Our workers are as follows: Front row: Fay Sumner, Fran Overton, Ernie Venable, Anne

Dilday, Joe Ann Slaughter, Rose Perry, Gertrude Davis, Lynda Williams, Sandy White, and Bennett White. Second row: The Rev. Mike Williams, Jason Harrell, Alton Mizelle, Libby Taylor, Doris Chamblee, John Perry, Sara Parker, Bill Sumner, and Donnie Parker. Third row: Betty Slaughter, Arthur Slaughter, Larry Hoggard, Phyllis Hoggard, and Wayne Taylor. Absent: Charles Harrell, Carolyn Pearce, Linwood Pearce, Becky Jo Sumner, Tommy Slaughter, C. L. Sumner, and Tina Liverman.

If you are in the area, please join us in our worship hours: Sunday School—10 A.M., Sunday Worship services—11 A.M. and 7:30 P.M., Wednesday night service—7:30 P.M. We are located on Highway 561, east 2 miles on the left in Ahoskie, NC. For further information, call the Rev. Mike Williams at (252) 332-4778.



ICE CREAM SOCIAL

On July 10, 2005, the Ladies Auxiliary of Smith's New Home Church in Deep Run, had an ice cream social. A total of \$325 was raised for Cragmont Assembly.

Pictured are Wilda, Joyce, Annie Ruth, Amanda, B.J., Joann, Bitty, and Mary Suan following the ice cream social.

OUR APOLOGIES

BECAUSE OF THE LARGE AMOUNTS OF SUBMISSIONS FOR THIS ISSUE, WE DID NOT HAVE ENOUGH SPACE TO INCLUDE ALL OF THEM. THOSE NOT INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE WILL APPEAR IN NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE!

POWHATAN CHURCH NEWS

The Powhatan Youth Group visited the mountains of West Virginia for a white water rafting trip July 15-17, staying at the National Free Will Baptists' meeting facility in Beckley. Rafters had to be at least 12, unless they were accompanied by a parent. Leaders Jackie Guy and Lisa James worked with Julie Cox planning and organizing the details of the weekend. Deacons Mark Guy and Phillip James were the van drivers and worship leaders. The group enjoyed pizza on Friday night, a hot dog and hamburger cookout on Saturday night, and a home-cooked feast at the home of Julie's parents on Sunday following church services. It was a great weekend of fellowship, especially for those teens who knew they would soon be parting for different colleges. The rafting experience was compared to being a Christian in the world. It is beneficial to work as a team, to keep moving in the right direction together. If one team member falls out of the

raft (or gets lost in the world), the others are there to quickly reach out and pull him or her back to safety. We pray these young people remember these lessons and continue to faithfully serve the Lord.

The youth's "CU@CiCi's" monthly outreach program continues to grow. A group of over 30 adults and young people went out for pizza and fellowship following services on July 24. The kids are encouraged to invite friends for the evening service (often a visit to an elderly shut-in member) and then out to eat with the group afterwards. Four of our seven deacons and their wives took part in this visit, enjoying the fellowship, too.



The group waiting to be given safety instructions, vests, helmets, and paddles before going rafting in West Virginia.



The Beckley NEWB facility offered bunk beds to the young people and a kitchen area and chapel for devotions as well. Pictured are Kim Reeves and Nikki Jones.



The July monthly fellowship with the Powhatan youth at CiCi's pizza.

SEPTEMBER 11, 2005 A DAY TO REMEMBER HOW GOOD GOD IS!

by Ann Copeland, Kings' Cross Roads Church

Dear Friends,

Good Morning! Many across America will be thinking about all those who lost their lives on 9/11 and, naturally, we will too! I believe the very best way we can remember and honor those who died is to pray for the families left behind. We need to pray that through the tragic death of their loved ones they will be compelled to draw closer to God, and to give their lives in service to Him. Jesus will return one day to take us all Home. May the loved ones of those who perished not be "left behind" again. We would all love to believe that each one who died on this day four years ago, are in Heaven today, but the Bible tells us if one does not know Jesus as personal Savior, he or she will not reside in Heaven with Him. Let's allow our hearts and minds to put God first in our daily living and may we each be a witness to others, not just today, but every day as we live for Him. I am so thankful that I know Jesus as my personal Savior, and I will pray today and each day for all the lost across our world. The only true happiness to be found is in Jesus. May those who are so sad on this day of remembrance rejoice in knowing that there is hope in our precious Savior and Lord! God bless you all and God bless America!

**151st Annual Session
of the
Cape Fear Conference**

Saturday, November 19, 2005
Blended Fellowship FWB Mission Church

Registration: 8:30 A.M.
Special Dedication Service for the
Blended Fellowship Facilities: 10:15 A.M.

Contact Information: <jessee@intrstar.net> or (910) 567-6419

**Cape Fear District
Fall Woman's Auxiliary Convention**

Saturday, October 1, 2005
Haymount FWB Church

Registration: 9 A.M. — Starts: 9:30 A.M.

Theme: "He Is the Rod"

Dr. Burkette Raper, guest speaker

SCOUTING WEEKEND OF FUN AT CAMP VANDEMERE

Sponsored by: OFWB Layman's League and Home Missions and Evangelism

Welcome to a weekend of fun, September 9–11, 2005. Bring your current Boy Scouts and even those who may be interested. Bring your current Cub Scouts with dads, also. You bring your food and cook your own meals!

Proceeds go to help Camp Vandemere.

Please pre-register your groups.

We need to know how many are coming to participate in the fun.

There will be some structured time, however, most of the time will be free for your choosing.

Deadline: September 6, 2005

For more information, contact Billy Gurkin by phone at (252) 758-2676 or (252) 717-5107 or by e-mail at <bgurkin@earthlink.net>.

SCOUTING WEEKEND OF FUN — SEPTEMBER 9-11, 2005

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Number of Youth _____ Number of Adults _____ Number of Tents to Set-up _____

Cost:

\$30 per group or \$10 per tent
(whichever is least expensive)

Make checks payable to *Camp Vandemere*.

Mail this form with payment to:

Billy Gurkin

11055 Cherry Run Rd
Greenville, NC 27834

e-mail to: <bgurkin@earthlink.net>

REVIVAL

Monday-Wednesday, September 12-14, 2005

7 P.M. Nightly

Croatan FWB Church

12 miles East of New Bern, NC on Hwy 70 East at Carolina Pines Blvd.

Dr. Jerry Stephenson, guest speaker
(Pastor of Vandora Springs FWB Church, Garner, NC)

CHURCHES & MINISTRY POSITIONS AVAILABLE

HARREL'S CHAPEL CHURCH, Greene County is seeking a full-time pastor. Interested persons may contact Elmer Harrell by phone at (252) 747-2894

THE REVEREND CHARLES PETIT is available for the following services: pastoral, supply, revivals, or interim work. He may be reached at (919) 553-5741 or by mail at 2014 Penny Lane, Clayton, NC 27520

Ministerial Association of Original Free Will Baptists

To: All Ministers of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists

The Executive Committee of the OFWB Ministerial Association wishes to invite you to attend the **2005 Minister's Conference at Cragmont Assembly on September 12-14, 2005**. This year's theme is "Building on This Rock" with 1 Corinthians 3:11 as the theme verse. Monday evening Communion services and the daily Worship services will be conducted by ministers from within our association ranks. This is the annual meeting of the Ministerial Association.

Please fill in the form below and return as soon as possible. **The cost of pre-registration is \$35.** This fee covers your membership dues and picture for the week.

Please make checks payable to OFWB Ministerial Association and mail this form and payment by September 5 to:

The Reverend Jesse Fulcher
7541 Newton Grove Hwy.
Dunn, NC 28334

MINISTER'S CONFERENCE — SEPTEMBER 12-14, 2005

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please indicate your building preference. Rooms will be assigned on a first come, first served basis!

☐ Main Building ☐ Motel ☐ Floyd House
☐ Dorm ☐ I will be staying off campus

Please indicate here with whom you wish to room if you will be staying in the Main Building or Motel:

Do you have any existing health problems that would prevent you from being on the second floor? ☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ Check here if you will be eating supper at Cragmont on Monday night, September 12.

☐ Check here if your wife will be staying on campus.

Please note: All minister's wives who stay on campus will room in the dorm behind the dining hall.

If you wish to join the Ministerial Association but cannot attend our conference, you may join or renew your membership by sending the \$30 membership dues to the above address.

Please be advised that all rooms at Cragmont will have a per room charge instead of an individual charge as we have done in the past.

**Central District
Woman's Auxiliary Convention**

Saturday, September 24, 2005
Aspen Grove FWB Church

Registration: 9 A.M.
Starts: 9:30 A.M.

Debbie Gray, guest speaker

**Eastern District
Fall Woman's Auxiliary Convention**

Saturday, September 17, 2005
Rock of Zion OFWB Church
Registration: 9:30 A.M. — Starts: 9:50 A.M.

Theme: **"In God's Hands"**
(2 Samuel 16:12)

The Reverend Michael Bryant, guest speaker

**Pee Dee District
Fall Woman's Auxiliary Convention**

Saturday, October 1, 2005 at 10 A.M.
Beaverdam OFWB Church

Theme: **"Showers of Blessing"**

The Reverend Garland Suggs, guest speaker

**Western District
Woman's Auxiliary Convention**

Wednesday, October 5, 2005
Micro OFWB Church

Registration: 9 A.M.
Starts: 9:30 A.M.

The Reverend Bobby Taylor, guest speaker

(A special offering will be taken for the FWB Children's Home.)

*The children and grandchildren of
The Reverend and Mrs. Harold Swinson
request the pleasure of your company
at a reception celebrating their dedication to
each other and to the ministry
as we honor their
40th wedding anniversary
and the
25th anniversary of the ordination
of our father and grandfather.*

Please join us on
Saturday, September 17, 2005 at 2:00 P.M.
at

Kenly Original Free Will Baptist Church,
107 South Edgerton Street, Kenly, North Carolina.

The favor of a reply is requested no later than
September 7, 2005. You may respond to Pam Lee
at (252) 299-1250 or <pamelajlee@hotmail.com>.

You are cordially invited to:

**The Dedication of
Blended Fellowship's
Building**

**November 19, 2005
10:15 A.M.**

2091 Big Daddy's Road,
Pikeville, NC

**Special music by:
Blended Hands Signing Choir**

Lunch will be provided.

(In conjunction with the Cape Fear Annual Conference)

Registration Begins at 8:30 A.M.

Display/Advertising Rates



- 1/8 page vrt./hrz. • \$20
- 1/4 page vrt./hrz. • \$30
- 1/2 page vrt./hrz. • \$40
- 3/4 page vrt./hrz. • \$50
- Full page • \$60

Full Color Back Cover • \$150

Churches & Ministry Positions • \$8
(maximum of 4 lines)

Personal Information Changes • Free
(notice of phone, mailing address, and e-mail address changes)

These rates are for first-time runs. Additional consecutive runs are half-price (of equal or lesser size).

The printing of ads is contingent on the availability of space. We reserve the right to condense space as necessary. You will be charged only for the actual size used.

These advertising rates are for individuals, churches, and auxiliary organizations. These charges apply to any announcements, coming event listings, invitations, and registration forms. **There is no charge for article submissions.** If you have any questions, contact the editor by e-mail at <editor@fwbpress.com> or by phone at (800) 849-3927 ext. 227.

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

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The deadline for submissions to *The Free Will Baptist* is the 5th day of the month prior to publication. (Example: Items to be published in a January issue must be in no later than the 5th day of December.) You may submit items by any of the following methods:

- E-mail to <editor@fwbpress.com>,
- Fax to (252) 746-9248, Attn: Editor,
- Hand deliver, or
- Mail to: Editor, *The Free Will Baptist*
PO Box 159
Ayden, NC 28513.

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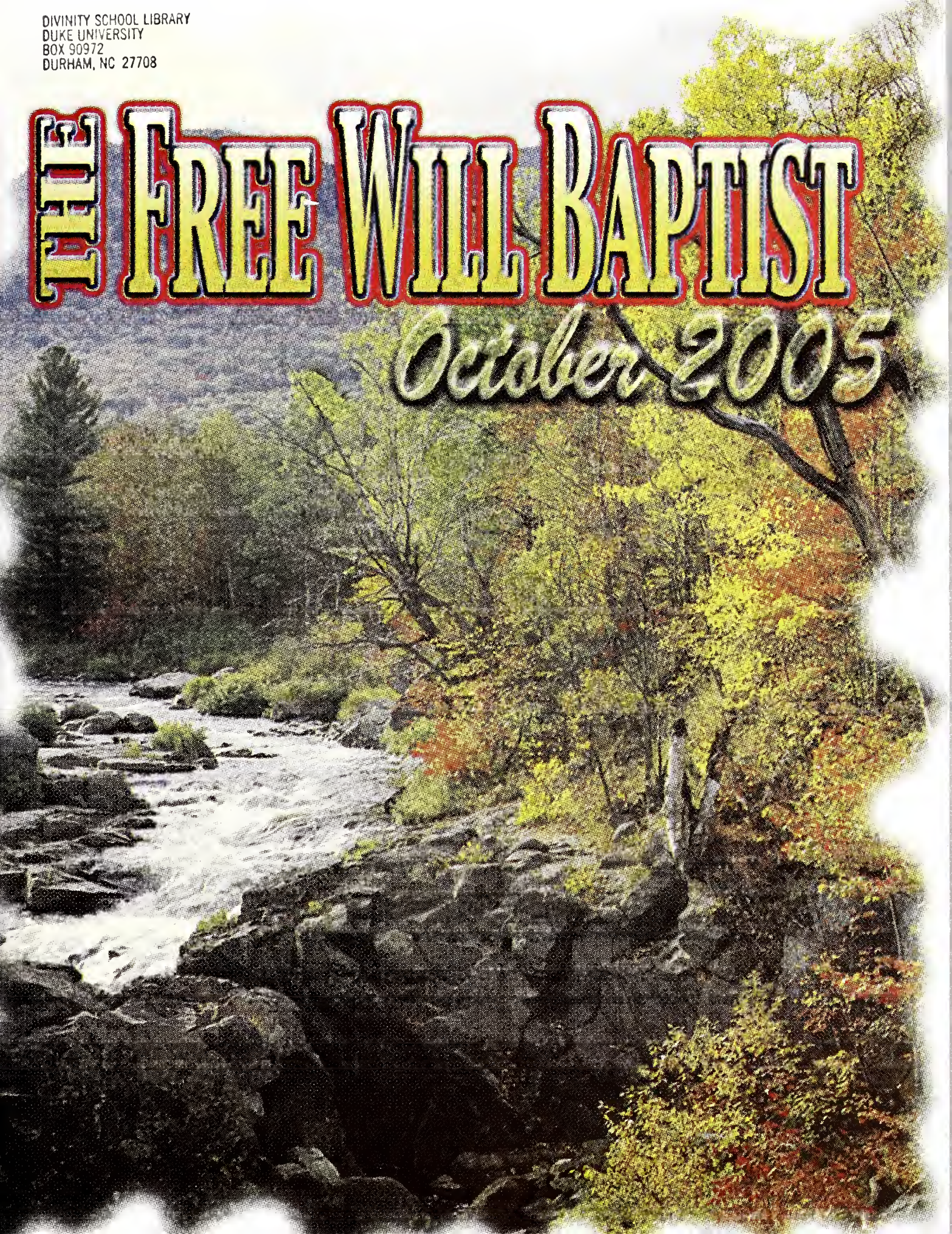
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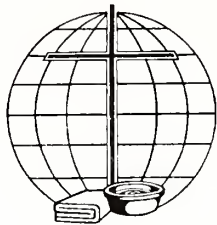
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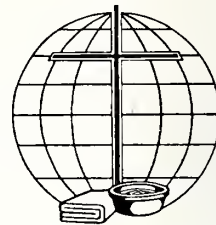
THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

October 2005





THE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST
MONTHLY PLANNER
October 2005



MINISTERS' PROGRAM MONTH

Meeting dates and locations are subject to change. You are encouraged to call in advance to confirm meeting schedules.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5 Albemarle Conference, Union Chapel Church, Plymouth	6 Layman's League Executive Board Meeting, VFW Building, Snow Hill, 7 P.M.	7	8
9 PASTOR APPRECIATION DAY	10	11	12	13 Western Conference, Little Rock Church, Lucama	14	15 Pee Dee Association, Emerson Church, Tabor City
16	17	18	19	20 Eastern Conference, Mt. Zion Church, Vandemere	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

COMING SOON:

November 4: State Layman's League Meeting, Camp Vandemere, Meal, 6 P.M.
November 10: Central Conference, Black Jack Church, Greenville
November 10: Layman's League Executive Board Meeting, VFW Building, Snow Hill, 7 P.M.
November 19: Cape Fear Conference, Blended Fellowship Mission, Pikeville
December 8: Executive Board Meeting, VFW Building, Snow Hill, 7 P.M.

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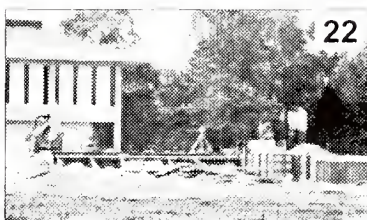
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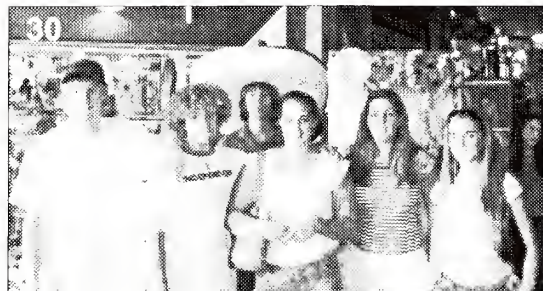


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POWER VERSE

Do ye not know that they which minister about holy things live of the things of the temple? and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar?
(1 Corinthians 9:13)

WHAT MATTERS MOST JESUS EVERY DAY IN EVERY WAY



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THE DARK SIDE

by C. H. Overman, Editor Emeritus, Guest Writer

With the popularity in the past few years of the Harry Potter series of books dealing with wizardry and other things related, we often hear the term, "The Dark Side." As much as I can ascertain, and that's very little since I've not read any of the books, the term refers to the evil side of wizardry. Be that as it may, we know there is a constant struggle between good and evil. It began when Lucifer, one of the archangels, purposed to usurp God's authority and was cast out of Heaven, along with a third of the angels, who now serve as his emissaries. The struggle manifested itself in the garden of Eden when Satan, formerly known as Lucifer, tempted Eve to eat of the forbidden fruit, and she in turn enticed Adam to do the same. Since then, as the Bible records, there has been a constant struggle between good and evil, and *the dark side* is always present in one form or another. Only through faith in God and His Son, can we overcome, or win the struggle.

Jeremiah declared: "The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jeremiah 17:9). Jesus said: "Those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man..." (Matthew 15:18-20).

Day after day the reality of Jesus' words is evident. We read about all kinds of evil—all those things Jesus referred to! Television blares forth the dark side of human nature, revealing the ugliness of the human heart that knows not His Son, with no regard to righteousness and truth. At times we reveal our own tendency to "delight" in the evil deeds of others—to allow our minds to delve into *the dark side*. And there are thousands of souls that are drawn into it.

Since the disastrous hurricane that struck areas of the Gulf Coast on August 27-28, we have observed both the good side and the bad side of human nature. With pride we have absorbed the stories of heroic rescues. We praise God for the response of the thousands who have volunteered their time, money, and efforts to relieve the suffering of our own countrymen. Sadly, however, we heard about the other side of human nature—

the looting, the alleged rapes, the shootings, etc. These things occurred because the laws and barriers that controlled, or prevented, such behavior was gone, thus revealing the truth of Jesus' words and reminding us that the heart is deceitful. We can only imagine what our world would be like of there were no godly restraints. Only through Him can we overcome. By His grace we will. We must!

Reflections

Bible Schools Were a Blast!

Summer has come and gone, and all the children have returned to school. With the start of school typically comes the end of the Vacation Bible School season. This year, the staff of *The Free Will Baptist* requested that churches submit articles about their Bible Schools and we would compile them into one big article in the October issue. Here's what we learned about Bible Schools held across the denomination:

Standard Publishing's Bible School materials are always a big hit with our churches. Five churches reported using these materials this year with the theme of "Building Character Like Jesus." Churches all over the denomination turned their sanctuaries, classrooms, and fellowship buildings into "construction zones" filled with "crew members" teaching the children and adults about Christian character traits such as humility, caring, forgiveness, faithfulness, and obedience. Powhatan Church in the Clayton area borrowed cones, barrels, barricades, and costumes for "Connie Cone" and "Buddy Barrel" from the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NC DOT), and hard hats for the "crew members" from Hertz Equipment Rental. Smyrna Church in the Meadow community and Walnut Creek Church in LaGrange opened and closed each night with a puppet skit featuring Darrel the Barrel. Walnut Creek Church members painted birdhouses, made book markers, and made construction helmets among other things. They held their commencement during the Sunday School hour, and all participants sported gold t-shirts featuring Darrel the Barrel. Pastor Mike Ledbetter, Silver Creek Church in Swansboro, created chalk drawings to go along with each lesson. Dr. James Rogerson, pastor of Mt. Zion Church in Nashville, challenged the children at his church with a secret word each night. The children enjoyed many contests in-

cluding "Build-A-Wall" where each student had a chance to earn four bricks each night by bringing his or her Bible, an offering, a friend, or by being in attendance. The teen class had the tallest wall and won the contest.



Carolyn Tew of Smyrna Church dressed up as a "crew member" and talked with the puppets at the opening and closing of each night.

Another popular Bible School theme this year was Group Publishing's "Serengeti Trek: Where Kids Are Wild About God." Spring Hill Church of Goldsboro, reports having transformed their church into a jungle filled with a river, a lazy alligator, colorful floating flowers, a coiled jungle snake, zebras, hippos, and elephants. Each night's session was kicked off with a visit from Serengeti Betty, "one wild and crazy jungle adventurer!" Bible lessons for this Bible School included ones on Gideon, Daniel, and Paul and Silas. Brenda Smith, the Bible Expedition teacher at Spring Hill, transformed her class each night for the Bible lesson. On the last night, the classroom was transformed into a jail cell with a brick wall made out of paper grocery bags and handcuffs for each of the students. This church reports the music for their Bible school being especially touching: "The songs and movements that were taught each night stimulated in each of us a desire to know more about God. The theme song for the week was entitled "He's the King." In this song, we were reminded that although God is

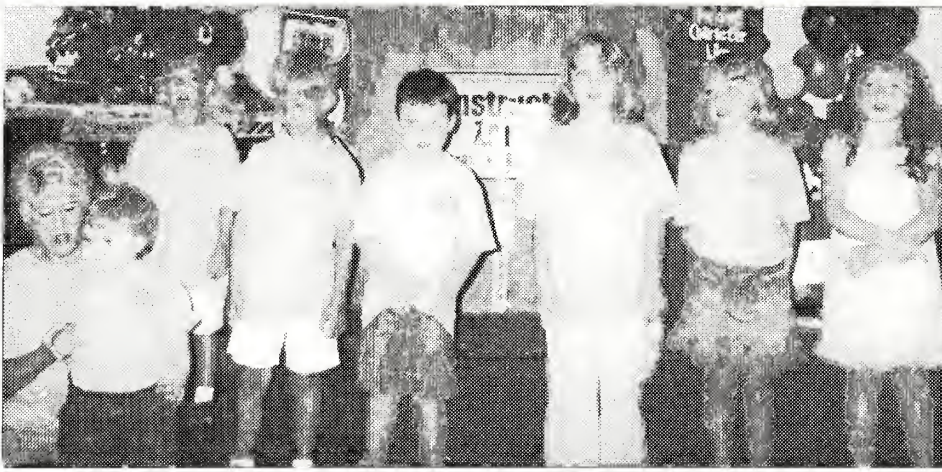
the King of everything, He wants to have a one-on-one relationship with each of us. Another song, "Use Me," had us asking Jesus to use us in any way possible to spread His Word. This song was undoubtedly the favorite of the grown ups as it moved many to tears."



Recreation leader Randy Beaman hid words to the Bible memory verse in piles of hay at Free Union Church. Here the upper elementary girls are competing with the boys to see who can find the words and put them in the correct order first.

Cokesbury's "Circle G Ranch: Where God is at the center, and the love never ends" also encouraged the Bible Story Center to be decorated to fit each lesson. At Free Union Church near Walstonburg, adults and teenagers created back drops of a Bible city, the temple, a tent, and a jail cell from white flat sheets by tracing pictures blown-up with the overhead projector. The elementary classroom was also decorated with palm trees made from carpet tubes and paper grocery bags, and a brick wall made from paper grocery bags. All the other classrooms as well as the fellowship hall were decorated with camping equipment, horse saddles and blankets, hay, and a variety of other "western" gear. They had a three day Bible School beginning with Thursday night and ending Saturday afternoon. Storyteller Marci Rollins taught the elementary children about Hannah and Eli, Jesus and the ten lepers, and Paul and Silas,

(Continued on next page)



Walnut Creek's children sang at their commencement service held during the Sunday School hour.

using the different backdrops and costumed characters. Lessons for the preschoolers, middle and high schoolers, and adults were on the same or similar Bible characters. The adults also participated in the crafts and music time, with the adults enjoying the music time as much as, if not more, than the teenagers! Special events the night of the commencement service included rides on a church member's horse.

Barnes Hill Church in Nashville reported having a "theme like no other offered this year." Their members worked hard and presented a Bible School entitled "The Life and Journeys of Paul." The lessons began with Saul and his conversion. However, in order to continue on with the journeys of Paul, each person attending Bible School had to obtain a passport, which was hand-made and included his or her picture. Each night was a different journey with Paul, with the week ending with Paul on his way to Rome. The adult class drew and colored maps of the different journeys. The young people judged the maps at the end of the week. Names of those in attendance were drawn each night for prizes.

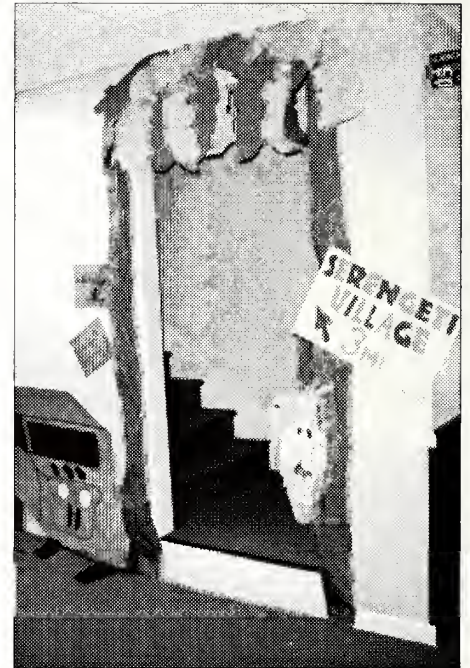
Sherron Acres Church in Durham created their own Bible School theme for their adult group: "You Can't Keep a Good Man Down: Joseph—From Canaan to Egypt." Pastor Doug Skinner and his wife, Virginia, taught

the lessons each night which focused on "the stages of Joseph's life, his status in the family as the favored son, what happened to him, the challenges he faced, how he responded to them while remaining faithful to God, and how God brought about good in Joseph's life despite the evil done against him." The adults "were urged to remember two things: God had a plan, and the Lord was with Joseph." The adult Bible School was complete with music and crafts. The church used "Teach Me, Lord, To Wait" as their theme song and students painted stripes or patches on clay flower pots to remind them of Joseph's coat of many colors.

Several ministers in the denomination were doused with water balloons at the end of the week as part of an enticement for the children and youth to raise money for various denominational ministries. At Free Union Church, pastor/youth minister Alan Joyner and minister of education Kelley Smart were confined in a corral as they were soaked by the children and youth who raised over \$1,000 for Cragmont. Silver Creek Church held a competition between the girls and boys, with the end result being a tie. Pastor Mike Ledbetter was soaked for the good cause of raising \$626 for the Children's Home.

Members of the junior class from Smyrna made a banner to send to

their friend, Drew Painter, who was serving his second term of duty in Iraq. The banner was decorated with the children's handprints and the words "Thank You" made from photos of the children laying on the ground in the formation of each letter. The class also collected supplies for Mr. Painter's unit. Mt. Zion Church raised \$630 for a neighboring church that was completely destroyed by fire the week before.



Entryway to VBS at Spring Hill Church

No matter what the theme of the Bible School was, all the churches contributing information to *The Free Will Baptist* talked about how much fun it was and how much the students learned. Sheila Herring from Spring Hill Church commented, "All in all, the week was filled with noise, laughter, and excitement. Bible School brings with it late nights spent in preparation, planning, and performing. However, the visible excitement that the first children bring with them as they enter the door, makes the late nights worth it!" Marci Rollins from Free Union said, "I asked different members of the church, including some of the children's parents and grandparents,

(Continued on next page)

to portray the Bible characters. I think the adults enjoyed acting out the lessons as much as the children enjoyed watching them!" Rita Jones of Powhatan Church stated people at her church said they wished Vacation Bible School was two weeks because it was so much fun, and a veteran Sunday School teacher from Sherron Acres Church expressed, "I learned things about Joseph that I never knew

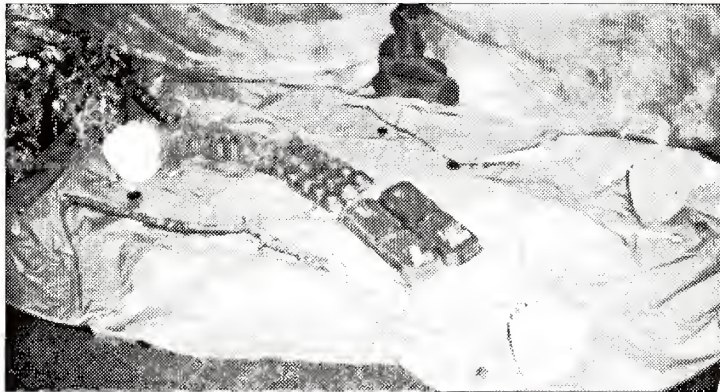
before." Stacie Jones of Mt. Zion Church emphasized that "the most important things about Bible School were that the children came eager to learn, we had dedicated teachers and workers, and we all walked away knowing how we should *be conformed to the image of his Son* like it says in Romans 8:29." James Stokes of Silver Creek echoed this same idea: "The most important element that

took place...was learning, studying, and sharing about the life and ministry of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior."

So whether your church's Bible School is big or small, keep in mind that the important thing is to teach people about the Bible in a fun and exciting way! We look forward to receiving your submissions next summer! ▲



Spring Hill Church VBS—Serengeti Trek



Spring Hill Church VBS—Alligator Pond

MINISTER'S PROGRAM

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST MINISTER'S PROGRAM



Serving the churches and ministers by providing:

- Quality retirement planning
- Seminars and educational opportunities
 - The Christmas Cheer Program for all ministers age 65 and older
 - The Minister's Widows Fund
 - The Surviving Minister's Fund
- Publications to assist in compensation planning

OCTOBER IS MINISTER'S PROGRAM MONTH

October has been designated as Minister's Program Month by the Convention of Free Will Baptists during the 2005 session. We would like to thank you for the opportunity to serve the ministers and local churches over the past year. It is our hope that you will remember this program in your prayers and that you will also be generous in your giving to support the work we do on behalf of all the ministers in the Convention. We are running behind budget at this point and we hope your gift will put us back on track in meeting the obligations approved by the Convention.

Mission Statement

It is the purpose of The Free Will Baptist Minister's Program to serve the churches and ministers of the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. It is our assertion that the minister can best meet the spiritual requirements of a congregation if he is unencumbered by the burden of financial insecurity. To this end we provide administrative services, information resources, and educational opportunities. These are designed to help the minister and the local church plan together a program of compensation and benefits designed to meet the minister's present and future financial needs.

What does the Minister's Program do? Meeting needs is what the Minister's Program is all about. This program was brought into existence to help prepare the minister for the financial eventualities of life. To do this, we try to help educate the church and the minister about the unique needs of the pastorate. Our goal is not to provide for the minister—that is the church's responsibility—but to help the church and the minister plan together so that at all stages of life the minister can serve without the burden of financial concerns holding him back.

The Minister's Program is an extension of the local church administering programs that the church

could not provide on their own. We stand ready to work with the minister and the church to help them accomplish the goal of working together in a lifetime of financial planning. Ministers step out in faith to answer God's call. That faith is based on the belief that God will prepare them and provide for them.

We believe that God channels His provisions through the church and it is required of them to be good stewards as it relates to their care of the pastor. This does not apply exclusively to matters of compensation, but also to support, appreciation, and willingness on the part of the church to be led. Please consider areas that the Minister's Program can work with you to help build a strong working relationship with your pastor.

Work continues on *A Guide for Pastor/Church Relations*, which we anticipate to be completed within the next eight months culminating with a booklet that addresses the issues that confront the pew and the pulpit. Your input is welcome on this project and we encourage you to contact the director with your ideas or suggestions.

Most of you are aware that the Minister's Program sponsors a retirement program for our ministers. The current plan is well-funded and those ministers receiving benefits under the plan can be assured that the Minister's Program will continue to provide the oversight and management necessary to make sure their retirement benefits continue to be paid as agreed. Those ministers that are currently preparing and planning for retirement have the satisfaction of knowing that their plan is among the most advanced plans available for ministers and enjoys tax benefits that make it unmatched in the private sector. The Program continues to provide retirement benefits to ministers who have outlived their benefits. This is only possible through your faithful giving to the program.

Does your minister have a plan for retirement? Churches should help their pastor prepare for the future by funding his retirement plan today. Contact the Minister's Program for any help you may need as you assist your pastor so that he can retire with the dignity and security that his calling deserves.

Every Christmas, the Minister's Program sends a gift of \$125 to all ministers age 65 and older. Remember, this is a gift from the churches of the Convention to men who have literally given their lives to the Gospel ministry and this program is a way of saying we remember you, and are grateful for what you have done. We encourage our churches to support this program and the response has been excellent. However, we still have churches that do not give at all to this program and we would like to invite them to make 2005 the year they say "Thank you."

We are planning to sponsor a Tax Seminar in February for all ministers, and those in attendance will receive a 2005 Tax Manual and will have the opportunity to learn more about tax preparation and planning from qualified CPAs. There is no more misunderstood group when it comes to income taxes than the minister and even though he or she may have professional assistance in filing his or her returns, mistakes are quite common. This seminar has been popular over the years and it is your gift that helps us provide this service.

Another program we offer to our ministers and their wives is the Minister's Widows Fund and the Surviving Minister's Fund. This past year over \$5,000 was paid out in the form of benefits in these two programs. For those who participate, this program provides a meaningful gift from fellow ministers during a time of loss. Every married minister is encouraged to participate in this program whereby they contribute

(Continued on next page)

ten dollars to a fund and when a participating minister dies the proceeds of that fund are given to his widow.

Since last October we have lost by death four members who participated in the Minister's Widows Fund: the Reverends Sexton Vann, Floyd B. Cherry, Lonnie Mann, and Dewey Boling. The Surviving Minister's Fund is happy to report no deaths since last year.

What are we asking you to do? Please pray for our work and after you have prayed consider a gift that will allow us to continue the work that we do. You may not know this but over 30 percent of our churches do not support the Minister's Program. Does your church support the Minister's Program? If you answered "I don't know" to this question, there is a good chance that your church provided no financial support to the Minister's Program last year. Why?

Perhaps one reason some ministers are hesitant to raise the issue in the local church is because they may be perceived as being self-serving. I had a treasurer tell me one time that they did not support the Minister's Program because they felt they paid their minister enough and did not see the need to help the Program. The Minister's Program is for all the ministers who are presently serving and for those who have served so well.

If your church supports the program please accept our thanks on behalf of our ministers. If your church does not support the program please—reconsider. Please tell us what we need to do to earn the truth and confidence necessary to receive your support. The only operating income we receive is dependent on the generosity of God's people—you.

Where does the money go?

* Each year ministers 65 and over receive a gift in the amount of \$125 during Operation Christmas Cheer. Once again, it is your support that makes this possible. Many of these men are your former pastors and friends who, because of advancing age, are no longer able to attend the

conferences and conventions but are truly touched by a gift from the churches of this Convention.

* All administrative costs incurred in the management of the retirement program are paid by the Program and are not charged to the individual ministers, as is the case in commercial retirement programs. This cost runs in the thousands of dollars each year but is paid completely by your gifts.

* The cost of Minister's Widows Fund and the Surviving Ministers Fund are paid by the Program so that all of the enrollment fees go to the survivor and not one dime is used to pay costs.

* The Board works very hard to control the expenses of the Program and this year only 15 cents of every dollar received from all sources was spent in administration.

* We sponsor seminars which are subsidized so that the minister only pays a fraction of the cost to attend.

* Hardship Grants are available up to \$1,000 for ministers in extreme need.

The only limit to the scope of this program is the level of support we

receive from you, the local church. Your gift to us is a sacred trust and we make every effort to provide the greatest benefit to our ministers with a minimum outlay for administrative costs.

While our financial report shows over one million dollars on deposit, these funds are divided into individual retirement accounts for ministers and reserve funds. This money belongs to the men who are preparing for their retirement and cannot be used for any other purpose.

We hope that you appreciate this fact and that you will continue to support this program with your prayers and gifts. Last year our total gift support from churches was \$59,851 and for this we are most grateful. We are running behind budget this year and we hope that through your generosity we will be able to meet the obligations approved by the Convention. Will you be a part of this ministry? The challenges we present to the church have not increased in ten years. We ask that you consider the following challenge:

For churches with less than 100 members	\$150
100–149	\$300
150–199	\$400
Over 200	\$500

For additional information or questions, please write or call:

Donald Fader
P. O. Box 39
Ayden, NC 28513
(252) 523-5800

*Please remember to pray
and support the Minister's Program*

CLERGY APPRECIATION DAY

Sunday, October 9, 2005

The Minister's Program would like to remind all churches that October 9, 2005, has been designated by the Convention as Clergy Appreciation Day. While each of us appreciates our pastor, this day gives you an excuse to do something special for him or her. He or she stands with you in times of sorrow and tragedy as well as those moments of joy that all families experience. Sometimes we forget to say thank you for all he or she does but the Bible reminds us in 1 Thessalonians 5:12-13: *And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you; and to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. And be at peace among yourselves.*

We encourage each church member to do something on this day to show that you care. Here are some ideas:

- * A card shower with gift certificates or checks.
 - * A financial gift.
 - * A bulletin board done with your pastor's history at the church.
 - * A surprise vacation.
 - * Altar flowers.
 - * A note of appreciation.
 - * A subscription to *The Free Will Baptist* or other magazine.
 - * Have each Sunday School class do something special.
 - * A new suit or pair of shoes.
- The gift doesn't have to be extravagant. Anything from the heart will mean a lot.

THE TONGUE

by C. Lowry

(This article is re-printed from the editorial page of *The Free Will Baptist*, Wednesday, July 8, 1936 edition.)

We find a great deal mentioned in the Bible about the tongue. In the Proverbs we read these words, "Death and life are in the power of the tongue..." (18:21). He that guards his mouth keeps his life, and "Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles" (21:23). A fool's mouth is destructible, "and his lips are the snare of his soul" (18:7). Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones" (16:24). Again we read in Proverbs, "Put away from thee a forward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee" (4:24).

In 2 Timothy 2:16 we read, "...shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. And their word will eat as doth a canker." "...He that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile" (1 Peter 3:10). In Psalm 39:1 we read these words, "...I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue...." In Matthew's gospel we read: "But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment" (12:36).

In many other places in the Bible we recall that the tongue is mentioned as being unruly. "And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell" (James 3:6).

Dear friends, if we could only realize how much harm one word can do we would be more careful. One word spoken at the wrong time has caused many people to lose good jobs that they needed. It has caused husbands and wives to be separated for life, in fact, has caused the death of one or both of them. It has caused fathers to turn their children from their homes. We

read where one word spoken at the wrong time takes such shape in the mind of another person that it makes the blood "boil" in their veins. There seems to be no end to the trouble our tongue can do. With our tongues bless we God and curse we man that is made in the image of God. We find, however, that if we guard our tongue and speak only good words we have promise of a long life. Why should we go on day after day speaking evil of our neighbor when it costs us no more to ask God to bless our neighbors and reap a great harvest of good for ourselves instead of sickness, sorrow, and discord? I realize that the subject

that I am writing on, if properly illustrated, there could be many volumes written. But I do so hope that you, dear readers, will lay aside all prejudice and ill feelings one to the other, and train your tongue not to speak one word behind one's back that would cause him to feel bad or that we would be ashamed to speak to his face. Do not think that you can sneak up behind your neighbor and stick your knife in him and get by. If you do, there is already a sword drawn for you the way

that you are going.

"Vengeance is mine, I will repay," saith the Lord (see Hebrews 10:30). You can't go wrong and get by. If we as nations and individuals had been speaking truth everyone to his neighbor for the past two thousand years we would not be living in the Hell of discord and confusion now. Then I say why keep on when we see that no good can come from such a life when God has such good things prepared for us, as good health, contented minds, and all of the God given faculties to make and keep us healthy and happy?





URGENT CALL FOR KATRINA DISASTER RELIEF

Help us answer the URGENT CALL to assist the Katrina victims. Teams are preparing to travel to the area to assist in the recovery. We look forward to your church and organization helping us to answer this URGENT CALL!

WE NEED THE FOLLOWING:

- KIDS KARE SHOE BOXES
- EMERGENCY RELIEF KITS
- NON-PERISHABLE FOODS
- WATER
- ALL TYPES OF PAPER PRODUCTS
- NON-PERISHABLE BABY FOODS AND DIAPERS
- LOVE OFFERING/FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS



COLLECTION SITES:

See collection sites on next page
or bring your items to our
Disaster Relief Center at
2473 Hwy 11 North in Kinston, NC.

HOURS OF OPERATION:

Tuesday–Thursday
9 A.M.–1 P.M.
(for Relief Center ONLY)
Tuesday
5 P.M.–9 P.M.

WORK RESPONSE

WHERE: Sandersville, Mississippi

WHEN: First team left North Carolina on September 11, 2005 to set up for volunteers to begin work the week September 19.

Those persons interested in working a week, should contact Laura Monroe at (252) 746-4963 or <assistant@ofwbhomemissions.org>. Different teams will be leaving each Monday to work for one week through October. You cannot work two consecutive weeks.

COLLECTIONS:

Will continue as long as necessary.

IMPORTANT:

A) See instructions below.

B) For contributions, make your check payable to The Harvest Connection for: Katrina Disaster Relief.

SPECIAL NOTE:

Individuals or organizations of your church that are interested in assisting, please call our Headquarters Office at (252) 746-4963 and ask for Mrs. Laura Monroe or e-mail <assistant@ofwbhomemissions.org>.

All volunteers who travel with us and assist in Disaster Relief and Recovery are responsible for their own expenses. YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS are needed to purchase building materials, food, and other items necessary to assist the hurricane victims.

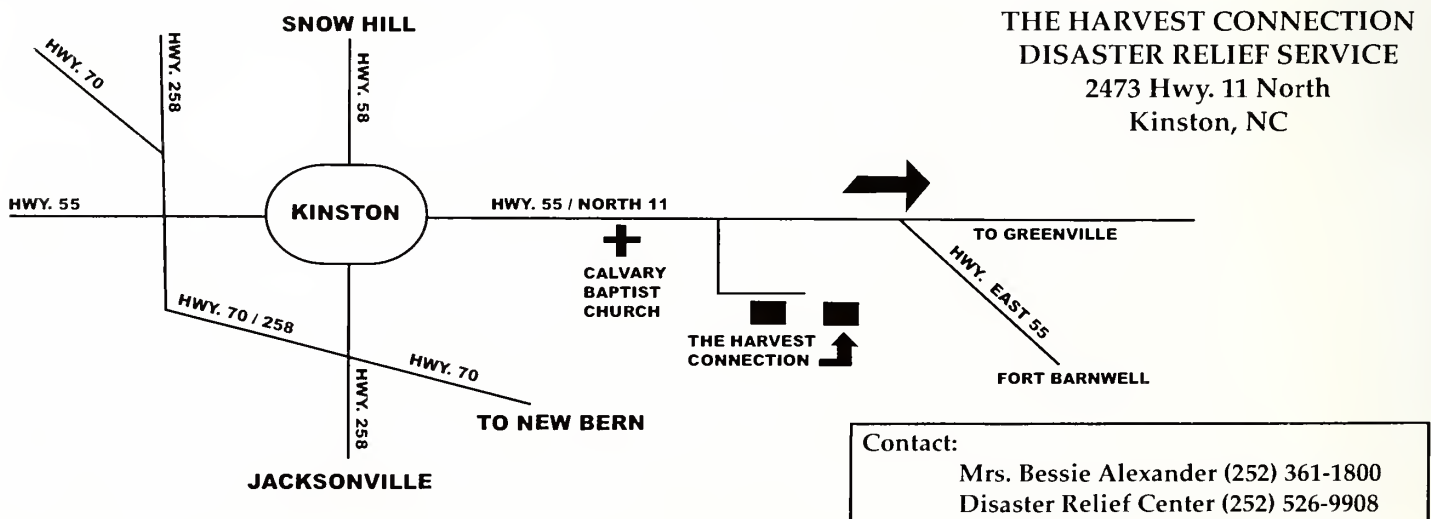
Instructions:

1. Please set aside scheduled times for prayer.
2. Prepare an inventory list of items you bring.
3. Please package the items in a box with a lid for shipping.

The Harvest Connection is an outreach
service of Home Missions and
Evangelism of Original Free Will Baptists.
P.O. Box 39
Ayden, NC 28513
(252) 746-4963
Fax (252) 746-8913
<assistant@ofwbhomemissions.org>

ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST COLLECTION SITES

Western Conference	Everett Chapel, Clayton	(919) 553-5236
	<i>Bill Hill</i>	(919) 553-7835
		(919) 201-0429 (cell)
Pee Dee Conference	Kenly Church, Kenly	(919) 284-3504
	<i>The Rev. Harold Swinson</i>	(919) 299-1051 (cell)
Cape Fear Conference	Beaverdam Church, Chadbourn	(910) 653-3439
	<i>Howard McPherson</i>	(910) 654-2633
Albemarle Conference	Lee's Chapel, Dunn	(910) 892-7855
	<i>The Rev. Ricky Warren</i>	(910) 591-7855
	Haymount, Fayetteville	(910) 488-8880
	<i>The Rev. Dean Kennedy</i>	(252) 568-3732
	St. Mary's Grove, Benson	(252) 894-5922
	<i>The Rev. Aubrey Williamson</i>	
	First Church, Smithfield	(919) 934-8700
Eastern Conference	<i>The Rev. Sam Weeks</i>	(919) 989-8384
Central Conference	Union Chapel, Plymouth	(252) 793-9191
	<i>The Rev. Al Markuson</i>	(252) 793-9662
	<i>Wayne Britt</i>	(252) 927-4507
Piedmont	St. Delight, New Bern	(252) 638-5427
	<i>The Rev. Tim Heath</i>	(252) 638-3803
	Faith Church, Morehead City	(252) 726-4218
	<i>The Rev. James Gurganus</i>	(252) 223-5251
	Daly's Chapel, Seven Springs	(252) 569-2721
	<i>The Rev. Todd Sutton</i>	(252) 341-1093 (cell)
	Deep Run Church, Deep Run	(252) 568-3617
Central Conference	<i>JoEllen Sloan</i>	(252) 521-5583
Central Conference	Piney Grove Church, Greenville	(252) 756-3787
	<i>William Tripp</i>	(252) 531-1650 (cell)
Piedmont	Friendly Chapel, Greensboro	(336) 697-9400
	<i>The Rev. Roger Motsinger</i>	(336) 993-6947





BAPTISM—LIGHT HOUSE FWB CHURCH CALAWAG, PALAWAN, PHILIPPINES

by The Reverend Andy R. Segay

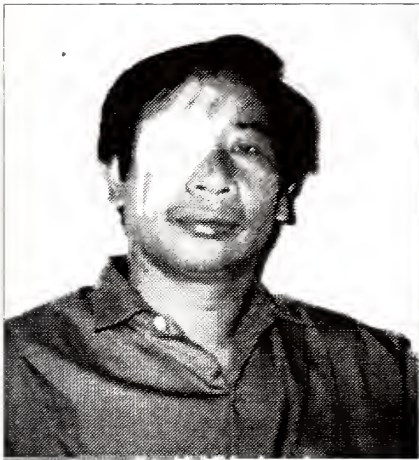
On July 17, 2005, I was one of the invited guests who witnessed the 6th Anniversary of the founding of the Light House FWB Church. The Rev. Jaapal S. Ontong is the pastor. This church is located in Calawag. They had prepared many events, one of which was the baptism. One thing I observed about this congregation is that the deacons are doing their part in the church. I officiated the baptism of fifteen new believers, who had committed their lives to the Lord. The Great Commission must be the emphasis of the church. Everyone must go forth in obedience to fulfill the great task that has been entrusted to us.



The Rev. Andrew Segay officiating the baptism.

MIRACLE OPERATION

by The Reverend Andy R. Segay



Pastor Eddie Madduma

The Rev. Eddie S. Madduma is the pastor of the Narra FWB Church, which is located about seventy-five miles from Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, Philippines. He was an active and faithful minister even though his sight was defective. He went to two specialists and both had the same findings. The problem with his eyes was hopeless. Pastor Eddie, while listening to an ophthalmologist, Dr. Laxamana, on the radio heard him say that he had many patients who had come to him who had been told they were hopeless to ever see again. This gave him courage to try one more time for help. He called Dr. Laxamana and he required Eddie to bring a recommendation from his previous doctor. He went to Dr. Ong to ask for a recommendation. Dr. Ong asked him who the doctor was giving him the hope of seeing again. After Eddie shared his story, Dr. Ong said that he would do the operation.

We praise God for His bountiful provision. Through the thoughtfulness of our beloved Director of the Board of Foreign Missions, the Rev. Harold Jones, the request of Pastor Eddie was granted. His left eye was operated on July 22, 2005. It was a successful miracle! Why? Because his left eye had the most serious prob-

lem. This was the first time that Dr. Ong had ever done this type of operation. But by the grace of God, Eddie can see again.

On August 8, the right eye was repaired, and now he has sight in both eyes. Praise the Lord! Thank you for giving to make wonderful things like this happen.

THE 33RD NATIONAL ANNUAL COMPETITION 2005 FREE WILL BAPTIST CHURCH, PHILIPPINES

by The Reverend Jaapal S. Ontong

The 33rd National Annual Convention of the Free Will Baptist Church Philippines was held on April 14-15, 2005. It was attended by 100 percent attendance of pastors, Bible women, and delegates from the local churches. The theme of the Convention was "Preparing for Heavenly Reward." We had a number of interesting topics that empowers our spiritual life. In the business meeting, our legal adviser, Fiscal, Julius Concepcion, explained clearly and fluently the feasibilities of the new perspectives for the new corporation. The Rev. Harold Jones, Executive Director of the Board of Foreign Missions, gave his support to the new perspectives of the Board of Trustees. The consensus was done by the Convention and accepted.

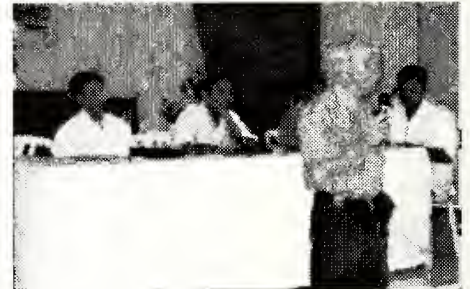
The two-day session was composed of lectures, reports of the various departments, and business meeting. It was a peaceful and successful event. Praise God for His intervention. Pray that the Lord will continue to lead and bless His ministry in the Philippines.



The 33rd National Annual Convention



Legal adviser, Fiscal, Julius Concepcion

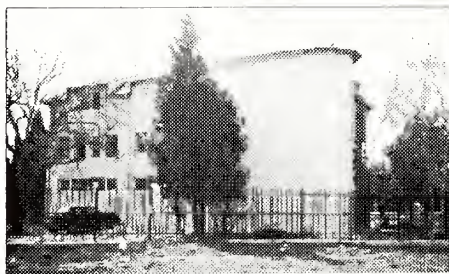


Harold Jones speaks in favor of new perspectives.

OPENING OF "THE HOUSE"

by The Reverend Willem van der Plas

When I entered the Worship Hall and saw so many of the Varna Church members sitting at the left side of the room, I was overwhelmed with thankfulness to the Lord and all His people who supported this faithfully to make this come through. Many thoughts crossed as a hurricane in my mind: the opposition and resistance we met, the rise of the building cost every time that we were stopped by authorities to continue building, the lack of finances and the constant requests for more funds. Sometimes, it has been terribly stressful, because we did not know how to take this all



to our Board. No builder took the whole project due to the economic changes that took place and we had to accept their offers floor by floor. I had to depend on Tezdan, because if the builders see foreigners they usually double the prices immediately;

foreigners walk on golden shoes. We are very thankful to our director, the Rev. Harold Jones, who so patiently heard our explanation of the situation and gave us courage to go on with more peace and joy in our hearts. We are fully aware that this had not been easy to him, too. It is all behind us now.

The good matter that came out of it is the fact that the building now has a value, which is worth at least double the price that we paid for it.

(Continued on next page)

Varna Gypsies have their own "house" to worship, to pray and praise, to receive the teachings from the Word, to learn the values of Christian living for themselves personally, for their families and their community.

I thought about the banquet invitation, written in Matthew 22, about the churches in West Europe, many have been invited through the ages and are now rejecting the Kingdom of God with arrogance and pride. Dear brothers and sisters, do you see what is happening—that the servants have to invite the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame? They are the beggars of our society who can be found in the streets and the alleys of our world. The King is reaching out to them and he is sending out His servants to invite them to come to the banquet. I believe that we have reached the third stage, the final invitation, to approach the people who can be found on the country roads

and the lanes, where prominent people are not coming. Surely the House will be full and the King will personally be present at that wonderful celebration. All who obey this important command of the King will be blessed for their faithfulness. Let us go out together to the glory of the King, with compassion and in obedience to his command.

Most of the Gypsies are too poor to build centers without support and those who are wealthy among them don't respond to the invitation. They depend on their own resources and don't see the need for a Savior. It is an old story that people follow first their own interests; it is as Jesus showed us in His parable.

In the last couple of years the Muslims built almost 900 beautiful mosques, they received support from the Turkish and Arabic Muslims, while Christians from many denominations had less than 100 centers built. Is it right to consider this "spiri-

tual terrorism"? I leave the answer to you.

I am in favor to send many more "Cross" missiles into the Muslim world with the proclamation: "Jesus is Savior for people who are dead in themselves, because He is the crucified and risen Lord, the special Son of God. Jesus is far more than Mohammed, because the great prophet of the Islam never has been raised from the dead."

I know that we are at the beginning only, much more has to be done and it is worthy to be done. It has become a matter of fact that Gypsies, who form a nation without a country, without a fatherland, have received their "house of worship," their house of learning, a safe haven. They understand this now and they are sure of the Christian love of brothers and sisters in Christ, which they never have met, but for whom they pray regularly. To God be the glory and thanksgiving.



CHILDREN'S HOME

ADP PROGRAM KICK OFF

We have kicked off our "Adolescent Development Program" that runs concurrently with the school year. This program is offered to residents at the Home between the ages of 11 and 16.

The ADP Program will meet once per week. During the program, residents are instructed on a variety of topics that will help them become more independent. Some of the topics include planning a meal, making a grocery list, and cooking and serving the meal. They will be given tips on maintaining a budget, on how to make good decisions, and will also be instructed on the importance of proper hygiene, how to sort and do their own laundry, how to make minor sewing repairs, and other things that will help them in the future.

This program is just one more building block to help the children we serve grow into functioning, independent young adults.

SHARING WITH THE HOME



In late July, the Home received a call from Mr. Bobby Sumerel of Farmville, NC. He was calling to offer us his Nascar Collection. On August 24, I had the opportunity to visit with Mr. and Mrs. Sumerel and pick up the collection. While there, I learned that Mr. Bobby had been collecting Nascar collector cars and memorabilia for quite some time. Although his love of Nascar and collecting has not change, he has decided he needs a little more room around the house. We estimated about 2000 pieces of memorabilia in the collection, and that can take up quite a bit of space.

(Continued on next page)

Mr. Bobby and his wife, Peggy currently attend Friendship Church, Farmville. Mr. Bobby had mentioned the collection to the pastor at Friendship, the Rev. Jack Weathersby, and somehow the Children's Home name came up, and the call was made for us to receive the donation. Mr. Bobby asked that we take the collection and use it any way the Home can to benefit the children at the Home.

Mr. Sumerel doesn't get out as much as he use to, due to some health issues, but he doesn't hesitate to help others whenever he can. While loading the van with all of the boxes of cars, we got the opportunity to talk. We conversed for a while on the things that had happened in our lives and how God is always in the midst. I drove back to campus with a van full of Nascar collectibles that will become a blesisng to the Children's Home, and a big smile on my face, knowing that I had already received my blessing just by meeting and talking to Bobby and Peggy Sumerel.

BAPTISMAL SERVICE AT HOME

On Sunday, August 21, a special service was held in Memorial Chapel, on campus at the Home. The Rev. Lester Duncan, pastor of Memorial Chapel, baptized six residents, two boys and four girls.

We are proud of all the residents at the Children's Home, and we ask you to join us as we lift them up in prayer, and ask a special blessing for the six young adults who made a profession of faith to our Lord and Savior, and followed through with baptism.

CHURCHES IN ACTION

Several church friends took time out of their busy schedules to bring much needed supplies to the Home during the past month. Pictured below are just a few of the friends who visited.



Jackson Heights Church collected backpacks for the Children's Home. On August 25, they were delivered to the Home by their pastor, the Rev. Ashley Summerlin.



We would like to thank the Woman's Auxiliary of Stancil's Chapel Church for donating the lawn chairs. Pictured here is Shirley Hansley.



The Rev. Barry Stallings, pastor, and the Rev. Troy Lee, associate pastor of Pleasant Grove Church, Pikeville, stopped by the Home to deliver school supplies collected by the youth groups at Pleasant Grove.



Powhatan Church shared a pizza party with us Sunday, August 28.



*Please support
the Children's Home
Ministry through
your prayers and
financial gifts.*



SUNDAY SCHOOL MINISTRY

SPREAD THE NEWS OF OCTOBER OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN OFWB SUNDAY SCHOOL MINISTRY

† October 8, 2005

9 A.M.—3:30 P.M.

Northern Church, Bahama, NC

†† October 21–22, 2005

Antioch Church, New Bern, NC

At Northern Church, *Awakening the Sleeping Giant—Maximizing Your Sunday School*
will be the only workshop conducted.

The church will provide lunch for the participants at this location.

At Antioch Church, *Awakening the Sleeping Giant—Maximizing Your Sunday School*
will be led by Ms. Mary Dudley and

The Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government

will be led by Mr. Ronnie Taylor.

The Friday night session will be held 7 P.M. – 10 P.M. and the Saturday session
will be held 9 A.M. – 1 P.M. Light refreshments will be served at each session.

October 4, 2005 7 P.M. – 9 P.M.

Union Chapel Church at Plymouth, NC

Workshop: *Five Handles for Getting A Grip on Sunday School – Handle 2*

Led by Ms. Mary Dudley

October 13, 2005 7:30 P.M.—9:30 P.M.

Marlboro Church at Farmville, NC

Workshop: *Starting and Maintaining a Sunday School Class With Emphasis on Young Adults*

Led by Ms. Mary Dudley and Others

October 24, 2005 7 P.M.—9 P.M.

Daniel's Chapel Church at Wilson, NC

Workshop: *Teaching Methods for Adult Classes*

Led by Ms. Mary Dudley

For further information concerning these and any other item of interest
concerning Christian Education opportunities, contact:

Ms. Mary Dudley

PO Box 39

Ayden, NC 28513

(252) 746-4963

<director@ofwsundayschool.org>



CONVENTION UPDATE

Here's a question worth pondering. **What is a true Original Free Will Baptist Church?** What requirements and agreements must a congregation meet in order for the church to be considered Original Free Will Baptist? Let's find out. (All page references are from the 2001 printing of the *Articles of Faith and Principles of Church Government for Original Free Will Baptists (of the English General Baptist Heritage)*—hereafter referred to as *The Articles of Faith*).

Section 1, page 64 considers the local congregation, "...one that adheres to and participates in *The Articles of Faith*..." A listing of the basic officers and their duties follow. When these offices are not properly in place, *The Articles of Faith* are not being followed, and a true Original Free Will Baptist church is not in operation. Section 1 continues on page 71 with a description of the ordinances practiced by OFWB Churches. Baptism, the Lord's Supper, and the Washing of the Saints' Feet are considered standard practices of our denomination. The meaning is quite clear...each of these holy services are to be practiced by our churches, not one or two, but all three. The second paragraph on page 72 describes the proper times for church business meetings.

Page 73 begins the description of the Objects and Duties of the Local Congregation. The first paragraph is vitally important: "The object of the local congregation is to be the people of God. This is accomplished by working together to practice Christian living and to carry out a Christian ministry in the community." Further duties are described in the last two paragraphs on page 74. Representation by delegation and participation in the Annual Conference to which a church belongs is not only a required duty, it is a wonderful privilege. Your church, regardless of its size, is equal in voice with all other churches represented at the annual meeting. Failure to participate is not only a breach of the Articles of Faith, it is also a gesture of ridicule to the structure of our denomination. The same holds true for your church's participation in the

annual Convention of Original Free Will Baptist Churches.

The final entry for this issue is found on page 75, and is a statement of practice and duty that literally drives spiritual nails in the coffins of a number of Original Free Will Baptist Churches. This statement reads: "Further, that God's will may be done, **each congregation shall** [emphasis added] make financial contributions to the denominational ministries, institutions and benevolent work." Again, the inference is to all ministries, not just those of personal or congregational choice. And certainly, the distribution of these financial contributions should be in reasonable proportions.

There are many other factors that describe and determine the validity of a congregation calling itself Original Free Will Baptist. Many of our churches are doing a superb job of fulfilling the obligations—and for that we commend you in the spirit of brotherly love and thankfulness. And as more of our congregations catch the vision of growth and mutual cooperation, we will continue to see God's love poured out daily. For now, examine your church's record of participation and giving, and then truthfully answer the question, "**Is my church a true Original Free Will Baptist Church?**"

News, Notes and Praises From Around Our Denomination

Lee's Chapel has created a disaster relief website to assist our denomination's efforts with Hurricane Katrina's aftermath. Visit the site at <www.leschapelchurch.org/disasterrelief.html>.

Pastor Terry Dennis of Branch Chapel reports 27 first-time decisions for Christ, 33 rededications, and over 750 in attendance at the recent service with Evangelist David Ring.

The Rev. Joseph Ballance of Yelverton Grove Church reports 2 baptisms and a baby dedication on August 14.

The Rev. Barry Stallings of Pleasant Grove in Wayne County reports 4 salvations and one rededication in August. Four were scheduled for baptism and seven for church membership on September 4.

Dawn Perry, a Social Worker with the Children's Home, reports the baptism of 6 residents in Memorial Chapel on August 21.

Jackson Heights, Kinston—Pastor Ashley Summerline reports the following:

Five children attended a week at Camp Vandemere this summer and all 5 accepted Christ!

Five children and one adult were baptized during a retreat at Camp Vandemere; one person became a new member of the church.

The "Change for Children" campaign raised over \$1,000 at Jackson Heights.

Pastor Wayne Hargrove reports more salvations at Mt. Zion, Pamlico County.

Pastor Graham Lane reports attendance at all services of Trent Church in Pamlico County has doubled since August 2004.

Congratulations to Pastor Frankie Baggett upon receiving his Doctor of Ministry degree from Winebrenner Theological Seminary.

As we continue to give God the glory, He will continue to pour out His blessings. Keep sending your reports of God's outpouring so we can share His goodness with others. Send them via e-mail to <buddy@ofwbheadquarters.org> or P.O. Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513. And remember this: *...when we all get in tune with the visions, goals, and direction of our ministries and Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, we will truly be amazed at how much our people can do...as long as it doesn't matter who gets the credit.*

JESUS, KING OF KINGS

(1 Timothy 6:13-19)

by The Reverend Wayne Watson

In the midst of the instructions given to Timothy by the Apostle Paul, there is a reference to the true identity of our Lord. It takes us back to another time when He was devotedly going about His Father's business. He spent more than three years establishing whereby every child of Adam's race may "lay hold on eternal life." Now He stands before Pontius Pilate. Here, just a short while before He will die, He answers a crucial question. "Pilate asked him, 'Art thou the King of the Jews? And he answering said unto him: Thou sayest it'" (Mark 15:2). This is a good confession. Jesus is the King, not only of the Jews, but of all kings and peoples.

I. Jesus, the APPONTED King of Kings (Hebrews 1:1-3).

A. He is the rightful heir...of all things in Heaven and in Earth.

B. Ephesians 1:3-4 says He was "chosen...before the foundation of the world."

II. Jesus, the ANOINTED King of Kings

A. He is anointed with the oil of gladness" (Hebrews 1:8-9).

B. The Old Testament prophesies about the Lord's anointing (Isaiah 61:1).

C. He is anointed with the "Holy Ghost and with power" (Acts 10:38).

III. How Could This Be?

A. He is sinless (1 John 3:5).

B. God made Him our sin-bearer (2 Corinthians 5:21).

C. By completing His divine assignment at Calvary, He removed our curse (Galatians 3:13).



(In an effort to keep our churches focused on the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists' annual theme, the Office of Convention Services is offering a monthly presentation outline to use at your discretion. No credit is necessary and you may add to this outline based upon your needs.)

D. The atoning price was His blood (1 Peter 1:18-20; Romans 6:6-11).

Conclusion

The Apostle Paul admonishes us to "...follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness...Fight the good fight of faith...lay hold of eternal life" (1 Timothy 6:11-12). Then he charges us to "keep this commandment without spot, unrebukable, **until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ** [emphasis added] (v. 14). It has been affirmed throughout the New Testament that Jesus, King of Kings and Lord of Lords, will return one day. Until that time we should be "Laying up in store for [ourselves] a good foundation against the time to come, **that [we] may lay hold on eternal life** [emphasis added] (v. 19).

(A more detailed outline of this message can be obtained through the Headquarters office in Ayden, NC.



MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

PIONEER COLLEGE CATERERS INVITES YOU TO SUNDAY LUNCH

at Mount Olive College

Check it out! Mount Olive College has partnered with Pioneer College Caterers to operate the Dining Hall. Pioneer has been serving only Christian colleges and universities for over 30 years. Mount Olive College and Pioneer want to invite our church family to join us for Sunday afternoon lunch. Pioneer features an all-you-can-eat program for only

\$7 for adults and \$3.50 for children 12 and under.

HOURS OF OPERATION: Sunday: 11:30 A.M. - 2 P.M.

SUNDAY NOON FEATURES

- Fully self-serve program
- Two traditional entrees
- Breakfast bar available
- Make your own Belgian waffles
- Full salad bar
- Carved roasted meat
- Expanded desert selection

FALL DINNERS SCHEDULED

Each fall the College and the Free Will Baptist denomination have the opportunity to share in the ministry of Christian higher education through the annual church dinner program. The Mount Olive College Singers or Free Spirit provide a musical program for all the dinners giving the churches the opportunity to see firsthand the students in whom they are making an investment.

All Free Will Baptists are invited to attend the dinner in their county. Reservations to attend should be made through their local church chairperson. However, for more information anyone may contact Mrs. Jean F. Ackiss, director of church support, at (919) 658-7744 or (800) 653-0854 or <jfackiss@moc.edu>. Dates for each of the dinners are listed below.

LENOIR COUNTY, Saturday, October 1, 6:30 P.M., Daly's Chapel Church near Seven Springs, Cleo S. Hinson, Chair. Goal: \$26,225

JONES COUNTY, Monday, October 3, 7 P.M., Whaley's Chapel Church near Richlands, Gene Burkett, Chair. Goal: \$8,600

NASH COUNTY, Tuesday, October 4, 7 P.M., Whitley Center, FWB Children's Home, Middlesex, John R. Manning, Chair. Goal: \$8,850

BEAUFORT COUNTY, Saturday, October 8, 6:30 P.M., Southside High School, Chocowinity, Billy Gurkin, Chair. Goal: \$13,500

GREENE COUNTY, Monday, October 10, 7 P.M., Hull Road Church near Snow Hill, Genevieve M. Taylor and Randy Beaman, Co-Chairs. Goal: \$51,925

PEE DEE ASSOCIATION, Tuesday, October 18, 7 P.M., Mount Calvary Church near Clarkton, Danny McPherson, Chair. (Gave approximately \$12,000 at 2004 dinner)

ONslow-BRUNSWICK COUNTIES, Monday, October 24, 7 P.M., Verona Church near Jacksonville, Ronnie Parker, Chair. Goal: \$5,075

WAYNE COUNTY, Tuesday, October 25, 7 P.M., Lois K. Murphy Regional Center, Mount Olive College, Barbara Lancaster, Chair. Goal: \$83,000

EDGEcombe COUNTY, Thursday, October 27, 7 P.M., First Church, Tarboro, Ray Williamson, Chair. Goal: \$12,050

PAMLICO COUNTY, Saturday, October 29, 6 P.M., Mount Zion Church, Vandemere, Judy Thaanum and Joy Caroon, Co-Chairs. Goal: \$8,725

WASHINGTON, MARTIN, TYRRELL, AND PASQUOTANK COUNTIES, Thursday, November 3, 7 P.M., Rose of Sharon Church, Bear Grass, Lloyd W. Jones, Jr., Chair. Goal: \$24,800

DUPLIN COUNTY, Saturday, November 5, 6 P.M., Mount Olive College, Lois K. Murphy Regional Center, Tommy Benson, Chair. Goal: \$21,575

JOHNSTON-WAKE COUNTIES, Monday, November 7, 7 P.M., Everett Chapel Church, Spiritual Life Building, Clayton. Keenan Hinnant and Dee Farmer, Co-Chairs. Goal: \$54,000

Craven County, Thursday, November 10, 7 P.M., Juniper Chapel Church near Vanceboro, Julie Wetherington, Chair. Goal: \$22,375

Carteret County, Saturday, November 12, 6 P.M., West Carteret High School, Morehead City, Sheri S. Lewis and Edgar Pake, Jr., Co-Chairs. Goal: \$11,450

PITT COUNTY, Monday, November 14, 7 P.M., Elm Grove Church near Ayden, William Moore, Chair. Goal: \$43,350

Wilson County, Tuesday, November 15, 7 P.M., Daniel's Chapel Church near Wilson, Johnny Sullivan, Chair. Goal: \$52,000

SAMPSON, HARNETT, AND CUMBERLAND COUNTIES, Thursday, November 17, 7 P.M., Robert's Grove Church near Dunn, Lee Morton Jernigan, Chair. Goal: \$49,800

2005 TOTAL DINNER GOAL: \$509,300

COMING EVENTS

Alumni Weekend

November 18-20, 2005

This year's theme is: "We Still Believe"

Visitation Day

November 11, 2005

9 A.M.-1 P.M.

Mount Olive College will host a Visitation Day on Friday, November 11, starting at 9 A.M. High School students and parents will have the opportunity to tour the campus, meet professors and students, attend admissions and financial aid workshops, audition for music and art scholarships, and get information about NCAA Division II athletics eligibility. Bring your completed application and we'll waive the \$20 application fee. The formal activities of the day will end after lunch unless the students are auditioning or meeting with coaches. Please feel free to contact Trista Locklear, Admissions Counselor, at (919) 658-7492, (800) 653-0854, or <tlocklear@moc.edu> with any questions or to register for the event.

SIXTH MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE LOCATION TO OPEN IN OCTOBER

Ranked by the NC Independent Colleges and Universities as the second fastest growing private college in North Carolina during the past few years, Mount Olive College is growing in all directions—new buildings, new programs, new majors, new faculty and staff, new students, even a new location.

Mount Olive College, which has existing locations in Mount Olive, Goldsboro (on Seymour Johnson Air Force Base), New Bern, Wilmington, and Research Triangle Park, the heart of where Original Free Will Baptists live, is opening its sixth operation in October of this year.

According to Dr. J. William Byrd, Mount Olive College president, the institution's new location will be at 4525 Highway 264 West in Beaufort County.

"Our initial research in the northeast region has indicated a strong interest among local residents for Mount Olive College to bring educational services to this part of our state. We expect that this venture will be important to Mount Olive College and the people of northeast North Carolina. The blend of services that we can provide will augment other educational opportunities available in this region," Byrd stated.

Evan Duff has been hired as the director of the Mount Olive College Washington location. He brings to the institution an array of skills both from higher education and the corporate sectors, having been the occupational coordinator at Lenoir Community College and having past experience in operations management and accounting.

"The College is very fortunate to have Evan join the Mount Olive College team. He is an alumnus of the college

graduating with a BS in management and organizational development. He then went on to receive a MS in business administration and will complete his EdD this fall in organizational leadership. He is passionate and believes in the mission of the College," said Dr. Ellen Jordan, vice president for academic affairs.

Course offerings for Mount Olive College's Washington location will cater to working adults with classes being offered one night a week. Bachelor degree programs for students with some prior college experience will be offered in Management and Organizational Development, Early Childhood Education, Religion, Criminal Justice, and Management of Information Systems. Also included will be the Heritage Plus program, an associate's degree program that will provide working adults, with little or no college experience, the ability to earn their college degree by attending class just one night a week and completing out of class assignments.

Enrollment for students has already started at the Washington location with the first program in Management and Organizational Development beginning on Tuesday, October 18, 2005, and Heritage Plus to begin on Tuesday, November 22, 2005.

"It is an honor to work for my alma mater and I am really excited about Mount Olive College's expansion to the Washington area. We have dynamic programs and we are here to serve the needs of the students and we are ready to get started," Duff stated.

For more information about the educational opportunities at the Mount Olive College Washington location, call (866) 316-1757 or e-mail <admissions.washington@moc.edu>.

FRESHMAN ENTHUSIASM



New freshman Colleen Smith was so enthusiastic about her plans to attend Mount Olive College, that she changed her answering machine message to say, "Hello, this is Colleen. If you have not chosen your college, check out Mount Olive College. That's where I'm going. I'll see YOU in the fall."

Colleen is the daughter of Danny and Margey Smith of Goldsboro and a graduate of Faith Christian Academy. She attends Living Waters Church in Pikeville. Being the daughter of a Free Will Baptist Minister, Colleen had always heard about Mount Olive College and knew that was where she wanted to attend.

Colleen had applied and been accepted to other institutions, but to her, Mount Olive College had something that the other colleges did not. "Mount Olive College just makes me feel at home. The fact that it's located in Wayne County and offers small class sizes made it my number one choice," she explained, "And the faculty and staff are wonderful. They are always willing to take time out of their schedules to help you out."

With a full load of classes and all of the excitement of starting college, Colleen has big plans for her college future. "I plan to be active on campus in the Commuters Club and the Concert Choir. Mount Olive College is a great place to be and I plan to make the most of my college experience!" she exclaimed.

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE...GREAT AND GROWING

"It is an exciting time for Mount Olive College. The institution is truly blessed," stated Dr. J. William Byrd, president of Mount Olive College. "We are supported generously by our many friends, businesses, and foundations on which our progress rests. This incredible generosity has provided leadership, financial strength, and inspiration which continue to propel us forward. Add to this dedicated and talented employees and our blessing is defined."

Mount Olive College is well into the largest building campaign in the institution's 52 year history. Three new structures are being simultaneously constructed, all of which are expected to be complete by September of 2006.

All of this progress is driven by the New Century Capital Campaign, a \$23 million campaign which is scheduled to close in October. To date the campaign has raised more than \$24 million for facilities, endowment, annual support, and debt retirement.

"On behalf of Mount Olive College, I would like to thank the people and businesses who understand just how important Mount Olive College is to the local economy. We thank the students who choose Mount Olive College, the alumni who rally behind their alma mater, our donors who respond with an outpouring of financial assistance, the Free Will Baptist Church, which stands firmly with us, and all our many supporters in the community. To all of these people, all of us at Mount Olive College extend our warmest gratitude for being an important part of Mount Olive College and helping ensure our successful future," Byrd concluded.

Academic Complex

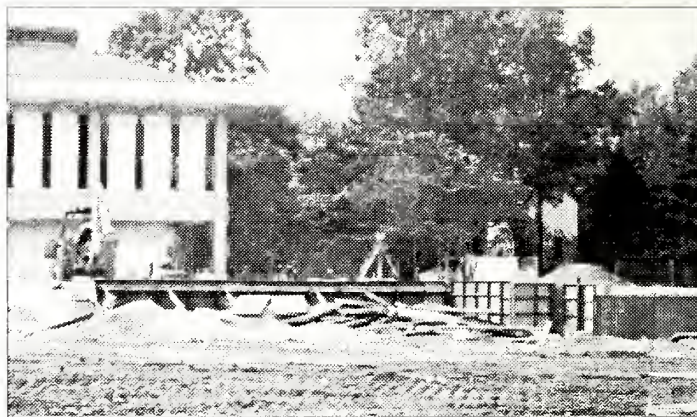
A new academic complex which will bear the name of the former College president and his wife, Dr. W. Burkette and Rose M. Raper, will double the College's current classroom space and house the School of Business, Agribusiness Center, and Department of Science and Mathematics. Within the same two-story building will be a 500-seat regional conference center for hosting conferences, forums, training meetings, and workshops. The complex will offer students state-of-the-art facilities with modern classrooms and laboratories, providing resources to further develop business and science-oriented curricula and, ultimately, provide space for graduate education in business.



Academic Complex

Communications Complex

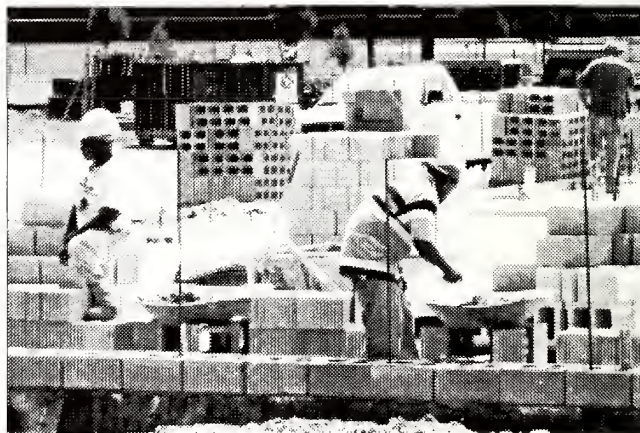
Also being constructed is a first-rate communications center that will enable the College's multiple locations to function more effectively as a single entity with the aid of state-of-the-art delivery systems including video conferencing, video streaming, and wireless networks. A companion building to the institution's existing Moyer Library, the center will provide a new and larger space to house the College's ever-expanding special collections, among them the Free Will Baptist Collection. It will also enable us to house 49,000 additional volumes to support our current and developing academic programs.



Communications Complex

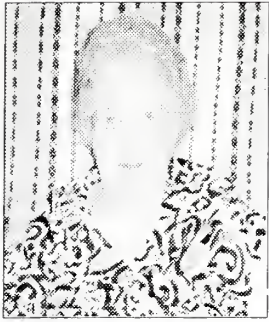
Wellness Center

The third building being constructed on the Mount Olive College campus is the Pope Wellness Center, named for E. J. "Buddy" Pope Jr. The 23,500 square foot facility will house student health services, an aerobics/cardio fitness area, an expansive weight room with free weights and weight machines, dressing rooms, and an intramural sports center.



Wellness Center

100-YEAR-OLD FREE WILL BAPTIST ROOTS



Bessie Alford Lewis

Keeping her daddy's dream alive for more than 100 years is part of what keeps this "young" lady going.

The family of Mrs. Bessie Alford Lewis joined with friends to celebrate her 100th birthday on Sunday, July 25, 2005. The party was held at her home church, the Knightdale First Baptist Church.

Mrs. Lewis has been spreading the Gospel in many ways for

many years. She taught Sunday School for more than 50 years, led the youth choir and encouraged the senior adults' Ball Club (Be Active, Live Longer). She is a living example of those very words. She also enjoys playing the piano and writing poetry. Oh, the lives she has touched and continues to touch because she is active and has lived longer.

Growing up at Camp Glenn in Morehead City during World War I, she describes herself as being mean and a daredevil. "I enjoyed pulling my sister's hair." She recalls her love for her family, especially her father, the Rev. J. W. Alford, a Free Will Baptist minister who spent a great deal of his time away from his family.

Mrs. Lewis remembers, "He would bring the children gifts when he returned from trips. Many times the gifts would be books, and he always encouraged us to read." She remembers having to be quiet when he was home because he was studying and preparing for his next preaching engagement.

"He was a quiet man, but enjoyed teasing others. She chuckled as she remembered her dad always had fireworks at Christmas and would go from window to window on Christmas Eve making the grandchildren think Santa was outside. She remembers her daddy riding a bicycle, boat, and later a motorcycle to get to churches. "We didn't have a car back then. He finally got a Model T- because of the sandy roads, he carried boards to put under the tires because the car got stuck in the sand so often."

She remembers that her daddy did not receive a salary from serving as a pastor. He was paid with barrels of food and used clothing. One time, Bessie made a playhouse out of a crate his "pay" was delivered in.

Mrs. Lewis taught grades 1-3 at the Free Will Baptist Orphanage (now Children's Home) in Middlesex. There she met Earl Lewis and they were married three months later. When Mr. Alford discovered his daughter's plan to elope, he insisted they be married at home in Kenly with her family present. That marriage of sixty-seven years produced eighty-nine descendants to date which include: 10 children, 26 grandchildren, 46 great-grandchildren, 7 great-great-grandchildren and 5 great-great-great grandchildren, all of which are living except one granddaughter.

Her mother, Lucy V. Alford, lived with Mrs. Lewis and her husband the last seven years of her life. Growing up, her mother was the disciplinarian for the children because her father was away preaching much of the time. The time they spent together those last seven years became a very special time for the two of them and their close relationship as mother and daughter developed.

Mrs. Lewis talked about her father's love for Mount Olive College. "A college for Free Will Baptists was a dream for Daddy and he was excited about this dream being fulfilled. He was glad to have a part in Mount Olive College becoming a reality." Mr. Alford was a member of the first board of trustees and was serving as vice-chairman of the board at his death. Mrs. Lewis was an adult and married when Mount Olive College began, but "I remember Daddy talking about the College and the excitement that would fill his voice when he talked about a college for Free Will Baptists."

In memory of Mr. Alford for his service as a minister to approximately thirty Free Will Baptist churches and as a member of the College Board of Trustees, The J.W. Alford Scholarship Fund was initiated in 1960. The fund is now known as The John W. and Lucy V. Alford Family Endowed Ministerial Scholarship Fund and provides an annual scholarship to a student preparing for the Christian ministry or missionary service. In a brochure describing the Alford Endowment it is stated, "In its formative years the College was enriched and strengthened by the counsel and loyalty of Mr. Alford. He loved the College as a father loves his son, and he gave sacrificially to its support."

Mrs. Lewis and the family continue to support her father's dream with gifts to their fund to honor others on birthdays as well as other special occasions.



INSPIRING SPEECH GIVEN

by Michelle Thomas

On September 6, 2005, Free Will Baptist, Dawn Faircloth, gave an inspiring speech during the chapel service. She spoke about how God was with her no matter what, including during the dark times in her life. She encouraged freshmen to be who God created them to be and not who everyone else wanted them to be.

THERE'S SOMETHING NEW UNDERFOOT AT MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

Basketball season has not yet started and the Mount Olive College Trojans already have something to cheer about. During the summer the entire gymnasium floor, located in Kornegay Arena (formerly College Hall), was ripped up and in its place a brand new floor was installed.

The \$200,000 project was a needed improvement for the 20 year-old building. Although the old floor seemed to have many good years ahead, it was the floor's durability and lack of buoyancy that caused the need for replacement. According to Crystal Langston, the College's head athletic trainer, the floor replacement was a must have.

"In the past three years there have been several over-use injuries involving basketball and volleyball players," Langston stated. "Many of those injuries involving the knee and lower leg could be attributed to not having any cushioning underneath the floor to help absorb some of the shock when running and jumping. The newly cushioned floor should reduce the amount of overuse injuries, thus keeping our athletes healthy," she continued.

Originally installed in 1983, a lifetime of memories and successes are still wrapped up with the old gym flooring. It hosted 22 Pickle Classic Championships, 15 of which were won by the Mount Olive College Trojans. During the 2004/2005 season, the Trojan men earned a bid to the NCAA Division II Men's Basketball Championship for the second consecutive year, winning the East Regional and advancing to the Elite Eight for the first time in the College's history.

David Shulimson, Mount Olive College sports information director, recalled a historical shot: "The old floor was seen nationwide and worldwide the week of February 9, 2004, when Marcus West's 80-foot shot at the buzzer gave Mount Olive a 108-105 victory over Pfeiffer." The shot was No. 1 on ESPN's "Top 10 Plays of the Day" and also aired nationally on broadcast and cable networks, as well as local affiliates across the country. The shot was also shown on ESPN International.

Not wanting the history of the old floor to be lost, the Mount Olive College Alumni Association is currently working on various possibilities to save and cherish its legacy. Opportunities to purchase a piece of the old flooring with a plaque on it are being discussed and more information will be sent out as the fall semester starts.

As the Mount Olive College sports programs have grown and become elite, Mount Olive College now wants to give the athletes the advantage of having the best to work with and that includes the gym floor. Bill Clingan, head basketball coach at Mount Olive College talked about the new flooring, "The appearance of the court is first class. The new surface will return the necessary buoyancy that will decrease leg problems and ultimately assist in performance."

It has taken more than a month and over 1,700 man hours to rip up the 22 year old panels and lay down the brand new gym floor, which came from 20 year-old maples grown in Canada. The process started with a crew of machines that tore the wood from the padding underneath. New absorbent cushioning was put down before the top-notch maple strips were positioned on top.

Approximately 22,500 slats of wood were used in the College Hall arena. After fitting, nailing, and sanding them all, a professional artist painted the game lines and central Mount Olive College Trojan logos.

Jeff Eisen, the newly appointed Director of Athletics at Mount Olive College, invites parents, alumni, and the community to see for themselves the new floor in Kornegay Arena. "I would like to invite everyone out to see what we have to cheer about. The new flooring is just one of many improvements being made in the athletics department. We have great coaches, wonderful student-athletes, and facilities that will match any in our conference," Eisen stated.

The new floor made its debut August 26, as the Trojan women's volleyball team played host to Shaw.



New gym floor in College Hall

KORNEGAY ARENA DEDICATED

In the official opening ceremony of the 2005 academic year, Mount Olive College dedicated the largest building on its campus. Formerly called College Hall, the 2,000 seat arena was renamed the George and Annie Dail Kornegay Arena. The naming was made possible by a \$1 million dollar gift from the George R. Kornegay Jr. family, who wanted to name the facility in memory of his parents.

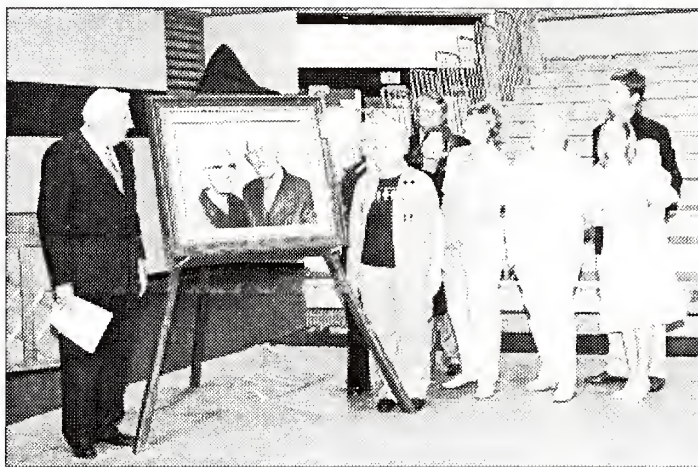
"Our family is pleased to be able to contribute to Mount Olive College in this meaningful way," Kornegay stated as he addressed the crowd of over 500 people. "I know that our parents would be proud to have their names associated with Mount Olive College. Both of them knew the value of education. Neither of them had much formal education, but they became self-educated. They were able to raise three children on a 66-acre farm and never put a mortgage on that farm," he continued.

George and Annie Dail Kornegay were born, raised, and lived in Duplin County. Mother, housewife, mentor, and teacher were Annie Dail's primary job titles. George Sr. was a farmer and spent his lifetime tilling the earth. The couple had three children, the late Edna Kornegay Brice of Holly Ridge, Doris Kornegay Holland of Mount Olive, and George Jr. of Mount Olive.

George R. Kornegay Jr. is married to Barbara Kornegay, vice president for enrollment at Mount Olive College. He has three children, Stephanie, Russ, and Kevin and a step-daughter, Kathryn Sessoms.

Kornegay attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he received his undergraduate and graduate degrees. He and his children own and operate several businesses in and around Mount Olive, including the Sleep Inn, the Southern Belle, Glen Care of Mount Olive and Glen Care of Warsaw. George Kornegay is also the president of the Mount Olive College Foundation, an independent fundraising arm for the College.

"The Kornegay family contributes to the improvement of



(L-R) George Kornegay, Barbara Kornegay, Doris Holland, Russ Kornegay, Susie Kornegay, Stephanie Kornegay, Ann Parker, Kevin Kornegay, Cary Kornegay, and Charlotte Kornegay. (Photo courtesy of Kaye Nesbit).

our community in many ways," noted Dr. J. William Byrd, president of Mount Olive College. "George provides leadership in many regards that enhance the quality of life for our region. I am especially grateful for his service to Mount Olive College in providing financial support and promoting College causes that attract the support of others as well. This tribute by the Kornegay Family to the memory of their forebears will benefit Mount Olive College and the region that we serve," he concluded.

Touted as a physical education-athletic-civic and convention center, Kornegay Arena is home to the Mount Olive College Trojans athletics teams. It is the site of the Original Free Will Baptist Convention and the State Youth Convention. Tournaments, summer camps, conventions, college fairs, graduations, and concerts are all held within the arena.

FWB PRESS NEWS

ROBERT HADDEN RETIRES

On August 24, 2005, Robbert Hadden retired from the Free Will Baptist Press. Robert was the Production Manager for 20 years. During his tenure at "The Press" he oversaw the printing and graphic arts departments. Robert will be missed by all of his co-workers and the many customers he assisted. Robert and his wife, Sandra, live in Goldsboro and look forward to many years of retirement bliss. Please remember Robert in your prayers as he enters this new and exciting world of retirement.

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY.

BE STILL AND KNOW...



Where can a woman spend almost a whole week with 69 other women from 5 different conferences ranging in age from 5 to 93? A week of having three prepared meals a day, no telephone interruptions, wonderful music, comfortable surroundings, and experience a special closeness to God? We did the first week in August at Cragmont.

What could be better? Thanks to the Cragmont staff for meeting our personal needs. Teresa Ball, registrar, had made sure everyone had a comfortable and accessible room. May Pittman, director, and Sandy Thick, co-director, made sure we had an enjoyable time all week. They were ready to spring into action if anyone had a need for anything. They made sure those who wanted to go shopping or to see "Unto These Hills" were on the bus and that no one was left behind. Those not wanting to leave Cragmont for these excursions kept the porch rockers busy, sang songs, or just rested. Thank you for taking care of each need.

Times of singing were made special by Kerrie Clayton, music director, and JoAnn Parrish who can play anything she is asked to play on the piano. A few of the ladies blessed us with special solos. Thank you for times of worship through song. Eunice Sexton helped us get our days started with thought provoking devotions on listening to God. We need to give Him a chance to talk to us sometimes. Our Bible teacher for the week, Kitty Barnes, had as her topic, "Listening to the Voice of God." Her text was Psalm 46:10, "Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth." She taught on ways God spoke in the past and speaks to us today. She told why we don't hear Him and how to be still and listen for Him to speak. Thank you for listening to God's direction and helping us to be still and listen to our Lord.

Becky Jo Sumner led a night study on "Cities of Refuge." We were especially blessed to have five teenage girls join us for the week. They provided us with some special performances and an original poem about Cragmont. Many women shared their "talents" during our "fun time." We had some rib-splitting moments of laughter. Thank you for sharing with us.

Start making plans to attend one of the special times next year set for women at Cragmont. Save a few dollars each week and be ready to join us next year for a week that will be the highlight of your year. Thank you, God, for Cragmont, those who make our stays there so special, music, Your Word, and friends to share all of these with.

LETTER FROM BULGARIA

(Written to the North Carolina Woman's Auxiliary Convention held at Beaverdam Free Will Baptist Church on May 12, 2005. Read by Lydia van der Plas, missionary to Bulgaria.)

Dear Sisters in Christ Jesus,

I have come to know you by Willem. He told me what you do for people in Bulgaria and in many other countries! I appreciate your support highly and am thankful for the way you touch and change the hearts and lives of many children, youth, women, and men in my community!

We thank God for leading you to support Foreign Missions and so supporting people in need! Many of our needy people will perhaps never see you or know your names, but one thing is sure, you encourage them in difficult and hopeless times!

I thank you that you are generous in your giving even though many of you have to work hard to earn a living. We realize that while you help us to carry our burdens, you have also sorrows yourselves. We know that you pray for



Tezdzhan Mortazova

us and we like you to know that we pray for you and our Original Free Will Baptist denomination in North Carolina and elsewhere in the world. We know that we are joined together in the Lord Jesus Christ. Your concerns are our concerns.

You have taught us to consider it a privilege to care for God's people elsewhere in the world and around

you. We pray that the day will come that we, too, can be privileged to come into action over our borders and witness to others who need Jesus our Savior. We recognize your genuine faith, pure, unselfish love to God and to all people, which live on Earth. We wholeheartedly pray and say: "May God's grace be on all of you who love our Lord Jesus Christ. May He bless you with an undying love. May His comforting and leading spirit dwell in you daily; your homes be blessed. May your feet never get tired to walk on God's road. May your hearts constantly be filled by His love, faith and peace. May your sick, and your lonely people be comforted and held in the arms of the everlasting love, which is in Christ our Lord!"

Greetings to everybody, with love and respect in Christ our Lord.

2005 EASTERN DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR



Hazel Riggs Smith

For many years, the Eastern District Life Membership Award has been presented only to women who have served as an officer of the Convention. However, the Executive Committee, in discussing the eligibility requirements, realized that elected officers are not the only ones who have given noteworthy service and others deserve to be recognized

as well. Therefore, the committee voted that women eligible for this award should include not only elected officers but any who have given a service by serving on a committee, taking a part in the program or by any other significant means.

The Life Award this year was given to a member of the Eastern District who has not been an elected officer but has made an outstanding contribution to the business of our District Convention.

Our honoree, Hazel Riggs Smith, is the daughter of Webster and Estelle Riggs of Deep Run, Lenoir County. She is the wife of J. W. Smith, mother of four sons, Brent, Buster, Nelson, and Gary, grandmother of seven and great-grandmother of three.

She attended Deep Run High School. At the age of 17, she married her next door neighbor when he returned home after serving in the

Army during World War II. They have been married for 58 years and their livelihood is farming. When the boys were old enough to help out on the farm, Hazel attended Cosmetology School and opened a shop in her home. After 17 years, she decided "enough of that" and started working in the cafeteria at Woodington Middle School. That lasted eight years and she went to South Lenoir High School as Manager of the School Cafeteria. She retired in 1996.

Hazel is a member of the Deep Run Church in Lenoir County, where she has been teacher of the Cornerstone Sunday School Class for 23 years. She has been named outstanding teacher and nominated as Teacher of the Year. She has served on the Finance Committee and is in charge of the Memorial Services at the Homecoming service. Many years ago, she initiated a

(Continued on next page)

Bible study group on Thursday mornings and it is still active. She chaired the Bridge Builders committee for the Mount Olive College dinners for three years. She also enjoys her time in the nursery on Sunday mornings.

Hazel joined the auxiliary some 55 years ago. In the auxiliary, she has served as program chair for many years and on numerous committees. She served as president for five years and during that time her auxiliary reached A-1 status. She has been

named two times by her auxiliary as Woman of the Year.

She has attended many conventions, had a part in the program, as well as serving on various committees. She has written a program for the Woman's Auxiliary *Devotion*.

She held the position of secretary to the Lenoir County Sunday School Dinners for many years.

When there is a function at the church that requires cooking, Hazel is always in the kitchen. She has helped prepare breakfast for the Deep

Run Men's Prayer Group monthly for ten years. She is active in the Deep Run Ladies Prayer Group having served as program chair, president, and now benevolence chair.

She and J. W. enjoy traveling and they attend the fall weekend retreats and Christmas Retreats at Cragmont. She has attended the Woman's Week at Camp Vandemere.

Through the years, Hazel has been a giving and caring person to her church family and community as well.

OAK GROVE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY HONORS MYRTLE DAVIS

July 17, 2005

The following is the presentation given by Linda H. Bryan in honor of Myrtle Davis.

We, the Woman's Auxiliary of Oak Grove Church of Bladenboro, NC, are honored to recognize one of our special women, Myrtle Nobles Davis. We are blessed to have her as one of our members and she is very deserving of this honor being bestowed upon her. In Proverbs 31:10-13, the Bible says, "Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life. She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands."

Our church has also been blessed with this lady's presence. One of her most outstanding attributes is her faithfulness to our church. We read in 1 Corinthians 4:2, "Moreover, it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful." She is a woman who has been found faithful. Another attribute that she exemplifies is a sense of humor. The first part of Proverbs 15:13 reads, "A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance...." I have been with her on many trips, especially to Cragmont, and she loves to



Myrtle Davis

have a good time and is a joy to have along. Mamie, her sister-in-law, said she is like a sister and that they have never had a cross word. Her other family members and friends had good things to say about her, also. She is a very supportive and encouraging person and I have been the recipient of this love and encouragement. I also know she loves good Gospel music, especially the Bill Gaither programs.

She and her twin sister, Macie, were born February 5, 1929 to Harley and Argie Blackman. Her mother passed away when she and Macie were about four years old and her mother's brother and his wife raised them. She had three older sisters and three brothers.

In Proverbs 31:28, the Bible says, "Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her." On October 20, 1946, she married the love of her life, Dewey Robert Davis, and they live happily on Catfish Pond Road, Bladenboro, NC. On July 18, 1947, they were blessed with the birth of their son, Steve. They were also blessed with two grandchildren, Ricky Steve Davis and Charlene Davis Campbell. They have one great grandchild, Jessica Marion Campbell.

The Bible says in Matthew 5:16, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Myrtle Davis is always letting her light shine.

CAMP VANDEMERE

CAMP VANDEMERE—OUR SPIRITUAL LIFE RETREAT

by The Reverend Owen Arthur

A Spiritual Life Retreat describes what has taken place at Camp Vandemere this summer. Wesley Taylor, our camp manager, has done a fantastic job in co-coordinating the summer activities and camp weeks by working closely with each week's camp directors, counselors and weekend retreat leaders. Many young people have made a first time decision for the Lord during this summer at Camp Vandemere, along with others that have rededicated their lives to Christ. Praise the Lord for the directors, counselors, and group leaders for their willingness to donate time and energies to make 2005 come alive for all those who have attended the camp this year. When I hear of young people coming to the Lord, it excites me. This means that they have many years ahead to serve the Lord.

Our annual "Singin' By the River" was a huge success and enjoyed by many. Friday night started out well with three groups bringing song and testimony. Saturday started out on a warm note at 10 A.M. and from there it turned into one of the hottest days we have had all summer. A special thanks goes out to all the singing groups who participated this year in making this weekend a spiritual refreshing. Also, thanks goes out to everyone who helped in preparations before, during, and after the sing. We would like to thank Home Missions and Evangelism for allowing us to use their tent and to those who came down on Thursday to help put the tent up, as well as those who stayed over on Saturday to help take it down and pack it up.

Camp Vandemere has a brand new cookbook that has been prepared with the help of many friends that have contributed recipes and time to complete. There are recipes that vary from old ideas to new taste and various dishes. For \$10 you may purchase one from Wesley, any of the board members, or the Ayden Bible and Bookstore. Proceeds from the cookbook sales will be going toward the retirement of debt that

was incurred during storm damage and other needed repair. These cookbooks would make great Christmas gifts, as well as for any occasions.

Camp Vandemere's annual fishing tournament will be coming up on November 4-5. Many of our Layman League groups love to fish so why not get together and plan to come down and be a part of our fellowship? For more information, call Wesley at the camp, (252) 745-3171 or on his cell phone, (252) 514-3222. He will be able to give you all the information needed. Come join us on Friday night for food and inspiration and get ready for some friendly competition on Saturday.

Our camp board of directors have started a vision toward goals that they would like to see occur in the future of Camp Vandemere. One of the first steps toward advancing the camp's mission statement is the construction of a chapel. This would give us a place to worship without interfering with the day to day operations of the kitchen and dining hall areas. A chapel would give the cook leave to go and come between the kitchen and dining area. Also, the noise level that is created in a kitchen environment would not have to be monitored so as not to conflict with a service going on in the dining area. This project would be a great way for some of our Layman's League and Woman's Auxiliary groups to take on to help the camp realize a goal and need. When donations over and above your normal gifts are sent to the camp for special projects, please earmark them for which project you are wanting your money to go toward. All donations can be sent to our treasurer, Damon Kennedy, 2079 Tram Road, Mount Olive, NC 28365.

In closing, I would like to take this time to thank each one of you for your continued prayers and financial support. Great things are happening at OUR camp and the fruits are coming from your love and support. May the good Lord bless and keep you.

YOUTH CONVENTION

CAPE FEAR DISTRICT NEWS

by Rita Jones



Cape Fear Youth Officers Nikki Jones and Anna Faircloth at the Four Oaks Tractor Pull for Cragmont.

The Cape Fear Youth joined with the Cragmont Tractor Pull for the August 6 district meeting. The Children's Home residents were invited to be the guests of the Cape Fear Youth. Gifts were brought by Martha Parsons from Covenant for each individual and donations of supplies were collected from district churches. Mary and Phillip Allen (Bethel) gathered the donations in a van to be carried to the Home.

SAN ANTONIO MISSION TRIP— “A DRY AND THIRSTY LAND”

by Rita Jones

Saturday, July 30—We departed from Raleigh-Durham airport for Atlanta, where we ate lunch during our wait for our next flight. At San Antonio, we unloaded, gathered our luggage, and waited for Scott Lane and the rental vans to arrive. We loaded up and traveled to the La Quinta Inn which would be our home for the next 6 days. The first night, most of us traveled to Oak Hills Church for the evening service with Max Lucado. The facilities were awesome. There was a bookstore inside the 2-level structure with lots of classrooms and even a visitor's center. They have communion at each service, which was a little different to us. There was a live band on stage with him. He spoke from 1 Samuel 30 referencing the events in David's life at the brook Besor. We had devotions when we returned to the hotel.



Scraping, priming, and painting the house of an elderly neighbor.

Sunday, July 31—The vans took us to Cornerstone Church where we enjoyed the music and heard a message from John Hagee. He spoke on miracles and said that perseverance overcomes resistance. After the service, we talked with him in a side room and took some photos outside. A quick run by the hotel to change clothes and we were off to lunch and sightseeing. We shopped at the “Spanish Market” area, visited the Alamo, and went down the river walk. Some of us took the boat ride and some just walked and shopped. Several of us dined on the river at a



Working to clean a sidewalk area to make it safe for school children to pass.

Mexican restaurant. Back at the hotel that evening, we had devotion before settling in for the night.

Monday, August 1—Following breakfast and devotion, we traveled to get the assignment for the day from Patti Radle's staff. We were sent to two areas where school kids had to walk in dirty, over-grown sidewalk areas. Our job was to clean them up and we worked really hard in the heat to get it done. A neighbor who was a retired Navy Seal came with a chainsaw to help us out. There were lots of trash piles when we finished. He was very grateful for our efforts.



Having some fun at the Spanish Market with new friends.

After lunch, we went and cleaned another short alley where another neighbor came out and gave us all some watermelon. Then we traveled to a nearly-falling-down house that had graffiti all over it. The young

people began scraping and cleaning it to be ready to paint. We worked in shifts because it was so small and so hot. After the workday, most everyone went to the “Fiesta Texas” theme park for the rides and entertainment. One van load went out to a nice steak dinner, saw the Alamo, and river walk at night, and got to see a whole lot of the Texas area (thanks to Pastor Royce Reynolds)! We all reunited for devotions and then went to bed. Tuesday, August 2—Following breakfast and devotions, we traveled to another part of the town in another district near Fort Sam Houston. We cleaned a long, looped alleyway beside the home of a widow named “Frances.” Her husband died seven years ago and she was not able to keep the area cleaned up. Transients often jumped off the trains behind her house and took up residence along the alley. When we finished, we rushed to the hotel to get cleaned up and change for the trip into Mexico. We ate lunch at “Luby's” cafeteria and drove to Del Rio. We walked over the Rio Grande into Acuna. We shopped in some of the stores and tried to get a feeling for the small, Mexican town. It was very hot and

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dusty and there were children begging on the streets (which were one lane). We were happy to leave and get back in the USA. We were stopped by the border patrol in Texas. We arrived safely back at the hotel around midnight.

Wednesday, August 3—Breakfast and devotion were held as usual. The work for the day was priming and painting the house that we worked on Monday. The resident was an elderly man who was in the hospital at the time. The roof seemed barely able to hold its own weight, much less the young men who climbed on it to paint the higher parts, but the job was completed successfully. The paint that was supposed to be donated had not come through, so we agreed to buy it ourselves to be able to complete the job. To reward us for the hard day's work, there were snow cones available at the end of the day, compliments of the district.

Thursday, August 4 — After breakfast, we had a special devotion time



Special t-shirts were designed for the trip by Piney Grove Church that read on the back "Spreading God's Word...one city at a time" and showed a US map outline with the 5 cities highlighted where the Youth Convention teams have worked.

with Pastor Royce having communion with us. It was very spiritual and we each repeated the phrase, "I remember Jesus," as we took part in the ceremony. We closed the devotion in a circle prayer. We loaded up and left for the airport where we ran into delays. At Atlanta, we had to rush to make our connection to Raleigh-

Durham airport. All arrived safely and departed to go to our respective homes. We enjoyed our time in "a dry and thirsty land" and hope the work we did will serve as a reminder to all who see the results of it of the love of Christian neighbors.

PEOPLE & EVENTS

IN MEMORY OF THE REVEREND FLOYD B. CHERRY

The Rev. Floyd B. Cherry went home to be with the Lord on February 22, 2005. A pastor for many, many years, Mr. Cherry was known and respected by Free Will Baptists in the southeastern United States.

Born in Dothan, Alabama, on April 15, 1916, and one of seven children, Mr. Cherry's father was Allen Hart Cherry and his mother was Rosa Watford Cherry. As a young man, he worked in the family store.

Mr. Cherry was ordained a Free Will Baptist minister in Dothan on July 16, 1933. He married Edith Day in 1938. They had three children, Reuben, Linda, and Phoebe.

He was pastor of churches in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and North Carolina. He earned degrees from the

University of Florida, Thomas A. Edison State College, and Lighthouse Bible College, where he earned the Doctor of Bible Philosophy degree.

Mr. Cherry was moderator in 1949 of the National Association of Free Will Baptists, former editor of the Free Will Baptist Press in Ayden, NC, and served on the Board of Trustees at Free Will Baptist Bible College in Nashville, Tennessee for twenty-two years, and on the Board of Trustees of Mount Olive College in Mount Olive, NC for eight years. The Original Free Will Baptist Ministerial Association honored him as Minister of the Year in 1974.

Founder of the Carolina Bible Institute in Pine Level, Mr. Cherry was a member of Rains Crossroads Church and Selma Masonic Lodge #320.

His daughter, Phoebe C. Rice, three brothers, and two sisters preceded him in death.

His wife, Edith Cherry of Pine Level, NC, a son, Reuben L. Cherry of Greensboro, NC, and a daughter, Linda C. Lockamy of Winterville, NC survive him. Also surviving are six grandchildren, one great-grandchild, and a sister, Johnnie E. Kelly of Dothan, Alabama.

The Rev. Calvin Heath held services at Parrish Funeral Home Chapel on February 25, 2005, and burial was at Selma Memorial Gardens, Selma, NC.

Many Free Will Baptists in North Carolina remember Mr. Cherry and how he touched their lives. He set the example of what a minister should be to the community and the church.

CHURCHES COMBINE EFFORTS FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS FAIR

by The Reverend Ricky Warren, Pastor of Lee's Chapel

On April 10, 2005, members of Robert's Grove, Shady Grove and Lee's Chapel had the unique opportunity to experience the culture and needs of the five countries served by our Board of Foreign Missions. Over 150 people "traveled" aboard OFWBI World Airlines to Bulgaria, India, Mexico, Nepal, and the Philippines. Despite real delays with departure times, the mood of the groups was upbeat and positive.

The idea of having a fair began with the women who thought such a large program would be manageable if each of the churches researched and developed a display for one of the countries. From there the idea began to grow. The best way to describe the results to you is to tell it from the point of view of a participant.

My family and I arrived at the church a little early, not really knowing what to expect. Our preacher had said it was a Foreign Missions Fair and that each church would have a different "departure" time. We didn't really know what that meant, but we knew it sounded like we better be on time if we wanted to stay with our church group. We walked into a glass door that opened into a large "airport terminal." There was a ticket agent giving out passports, boarding passes, and flight assignments. The waiting area had banks of chairs for the waiting passengers who were chatting with fellow travelers and watching the televisions around the room. The ticket agent told us our flight number 316-H, departing from Gate 1, so we sat down and waited for our flight to be called. As we waited we met some people from our church. Some of them were on our flight, but many of them were assigned to different flights. I could hear the big jet planes taking off outside the waiting area and I thought how exciting it was to be in the airport with all these travelers coming and going.

After a few minutes, a nice lady came in from the door with the "Gate 1" sign over it. She spoke to the ticket agent who then turned on a loudspeaker and said, "Good evening, ladies and gentlemen; OFWB World Airlines is pleased to announce the departure of flight 316-F from Gate 1 with service to Bulgaria, India, Mexico, Nepal, and the Philippines. All



Waiting in the "terminal."

ticket passengers with boarding passes for flight 316-F may board at this time through Gate 1." Then several people got up from their seats and went with the nice lady through the door. I thought, "Wow, I wonder what is behind that door, and where are they really going?" While we waited, other church groups started coming in and getting their boarding passes. Soon the next flight, 316-G departed just like the first one. I was excited; we would be next. As we waited, we had a chance to meet some of the people from another church who had just come in. They were as lost as we were, but excited, too. Then it finally happened, they called our flight, 316-H.

As we went through the Gate 1 doorway, the lady who was guiding us told us that our first trip would be Mexico. We soon made our way to a room that looked just like a room in Mexico. It had rugs, sombreros, and Mexican music playing. There was a man there who had actually been a missionary in Mexico. He had slides of pictures he had taken there. He told us about the people, his work there, and what God had been doing for the people there. He even had some Mexican food for us to try. I liked the Mexican candy, and hot sauces, but I did not like the Mexican Candied Lima Beans. Yuck! Some of the people in our group asked questions, but I was too shy at first.

After a few minutes, it was time to go, so we went to another room decorated like India and Nepal. The stuff in this room was different, but we still learned about the people and what God was doing there. The missionary from these countries had slides, too. After we looked at the slides and the artifacts, I asked my first question, "Do you have food from India and Nepal like the man did from Mexico?" The missionary lady said, "No, because most people in these countries don't get to eat every day." I was disappointed, but

I thought how disappointed I would be if it was real and it was me living there without food.

Next, we went to a room for the Philippines. There were two missionaries who had once lived there for a long time. They wore the same clothes they wore when they were missionaries and they had lots of toys and things they had collected when they lived there. Like the other rooms, they had pictures, decorating, and food. They had a cookie that was rolled up like a tube and it came in a can instead of a box or bag. They were very easily broken, but very good. I really liked the stuff they cooked called "Sticky Rice."

The last room we went to was a room for Bulgaria. It had a lot of decorations and things like the other rooms. The two missionaries in the Bulgaria room really live there. They were here visiting and they said they were looking forward to going home soon. They told us about the Gypsy people they teach about Jesus. These missionaries spoke many languages and even a Gypsy language that they had to teach themselves because it is not even taught in schools. There was a Bulgarian flag that they had made and some yogurt soup. I thought it was really neat that the man from Bulgaria wrote my name for me in English and in Bulgarian. I put them in a scrapbook along with the passport that I had stamped each time I entered a country.



Visiting Mexico

As you can tell from the participant's point of view account, a great deal of information was shared in a short amount of time. Beyond just the information, there were cultural experiences provided in each room, the uncertainty

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of traveling that is real to a missionary, and the opportunity to fellowship with people from beyond your local church group. All in all it is a great way to have fun and learn about foreign missions.

This fair was a lot of work, but when spread out over several churches, it was very manageable and very worthwhile. If you would like to do a similar fair in your conference or community of churches, contact the Board of Foreign Missions or one of the churches that participated in this fair. They would be glad to help you.



Visiting the Philippines

INVITE THE DIRECTOR

I would welcome an invitation to visit your church, auxiliary, Layman's League, or youth group to share about your ministry of Foreign Missions.

For an appointment, call:
Harold Jones, (252) 756-9732
(home) or (252) 746-4963 (office).



Pictured are the missionaries who represented the different countries with the Rev. Ricky Warren (pastor of Lee's Chapel) and his wife, Angela. Seated are the Rev. Willem and Lydia van der Plas (Bulgaria). Standing, left to right, are the Rev. Chris Singleton (Mexico), the Rev. Fred and Linda Baker (Philippines), Ricky and Angela, Sandra and the Rev. Harold Jones (India and Nepal).

BAGGETT RECEIVES DEGREE



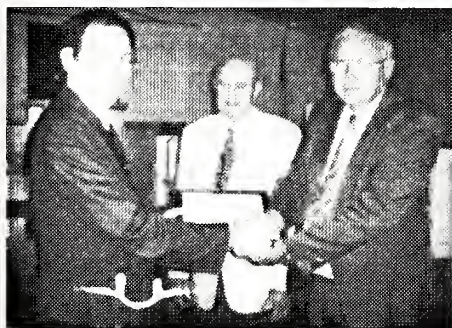
Dr. Franklin L. Baggett

The Rev. Franklin L. Baggett graduated with a Doctor of Ministry Degree from Winebrenner Theological Seminary (WTS) during ceremonies at its Findlay, Ohio, location on August 6, 2005. The service was held in the TLB Foundation Convention Center. Dr. Gary Staats, the WTS' Ritz professor of Old Testament delivered the commencement address. Winebrenner Theological Seminary is affiliated with the Churches of God, General Conference. Winebrenner is accredited by the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada, and the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

Dr. Baggett is pastor of Elm Grove Church near Ayden. His future plans along with the ministry include part-time teaching. "I appreciate the opportunity WTS gave me to further my education," Baggett said. "The experience at Winebrenner stretched my vision and helped me understand a bigger picture of Christendom."

He and his wife, Debra, have two children, Trey and Chandler, and reside near Ayden.

OAKLEY LICENSED BY CENTRAL CONFERENCE



PRAISE THE LORD! Another man has accepted the call to Gospel ministry.

Carlton Cobb Oakley, lifelong member of Friendship Church, Farmville, NC, received his license to preach the Gospel in a special service held Sunday night, August 21, 2005. The pastor, the Rev. Jack Weathersby, issued a challenge and charge to ministry encouraging him to "stand in the gap" for the Lord.

Former pastor and mentor, the Rev. Walter Reynolds, brought a prayer of dedication and commitment for Carlton and his wife, Connie. Family, church family and friends were present in support of him and to give honor to the Lord for His call to preach the Word. A reception followed in the fellowship hall for Carlton and his family given by the church family.

POWHATAN NEWS

by Rita Jones

Gary Barefoot, retired Mount Olive College librarian and historical collection curator, visited Powhatan on August 10, presenting a program about preserving our denominational history. The Layman's League joined with the Woman's Auxiliary for the informative program. Many "show and tell" items were brought and shared with the group, and we thank him for blessing us with the program.

A presentation about the San Antonio mission trip was made to the Powhatan congregation on August 14 by the members who took part. Ann Narron showed her pictures from the trip on the big screen TV. Scott Lane, mission leader, visited and thanked Powhatan for its support for all five trips sponsored by the Youth Convention over the past four years.

A back to school bash was held on Friday, August 19, for the youth with hot dogs and all the fixin's. Youth minister, Bryan Jackson, was the guest speaker and his church's group of young people joined us. He spoke on how Jesus told the disciples to go to the "right" side of the boat—just as we need to do to reach those we meet with the Gospel. We cannot ride the fence and expect to be good witnesses. During game time, Mark Guy and A.J. Canady were the callers for "Back to School Bingo" with school supplies as the prizes.

On Saturday, August 20, seven churches were represented at a study course breakfast on evangelism at Powhatan brought by Helen Floyd of Hopewell (Smithfield). We should evangelize within our families first and foremost and then one-on-one with those we come in contact with each day.

Oldest member Joyce Blinson was honored the same day with a 93rd birthday party. A total of 80 members were honored with a luncheon on Sunday, August 21.



Guest speaker, Gary Barefoot talks with Deacon Kerry Chestnut as Barbara Barbour looks over an ancient news article.

BUILDING AND GROWING IN THE FOOTPRINTS

by Marci Rollins-Smart

Free Union Church of Greene County held a service of celebration entitled "Building and Growing in the Footprints" on Sunday, August 14 at 3:30 P.M. Led by pastor Alan Joyner and minister of education Kelley Smart, the service emphasized the erection of the new educational building which is being constructed in the exact location of the previous educational building. In 1959, the previous educational building was created from the original sanctuary two years after the congregation built a new sanctuary adjacent to the old one.

The need for a new educational building was realized several years ago. A continual growth in membership has created lack of space in classrooms for teaching materials and students. Since the original educational building was formed by installing walls inside an already standing building, the layout of the classrooms was not very user friendly—making it difficult for visitors and new members to find their way around. Furthermore, one Sunday School class was already meeting in the church parsonage



(Left to right): Dana Harrell, Gerald Heath, Ray Clark, Nita Norville, Larry Harrell, Elizabeth Cunningham, Sherri Harris, Pat Harris (Facility Planning Committee Members), James Fulghum and James Shackleford (County Commissioners), the Rev. Kelley Smart (minister of education) and the Rev. Alan Joyner (pastor) participate in the ceremonial turning of the ground.

(which was no longer occupied) and the church offices and resource library were located there as well. The congregation decided their best option was to build a new building to replace the existing one.

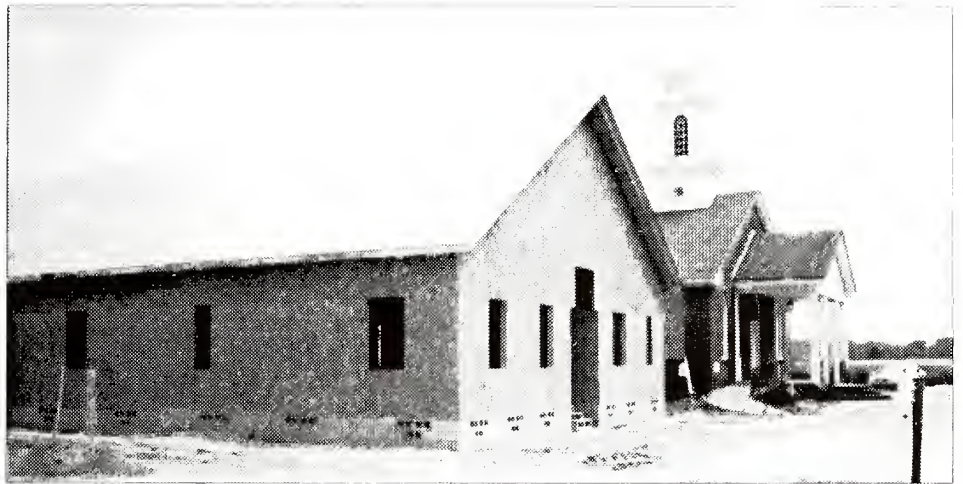
Following a church-wide cleanup time, Sunday School classes and other groups began meeting in the parsonage and fellowship building in June.

Piece by piece the old building was taken down and construction on the new building began in July. The construction should be completed by the first of the year.

The Building and Growing in the Footprints service featured elements of a worship service along with a Power Point presentation on raising funds. It

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entire year in addition to their current title and offering in order to pay for the new building. It was pointed out that we spend more than that on fast food and afternoon snacks during the week. Pastor Joyner pointed out that when Jerusalem was rebuilding her walls after the exile, it took everyone doing his or her part. He stated the same should be true for our congregation in its current project. The service was closed with a ceremonial turning of the ground since construction was already well underway.



The new educational building under construction.

RICHARD WHITMAN ORDAINED TO THE GOSPEL MINISTRY

Submitted by Helen Smith

Richard Whitman was ordained to the Gospel ministry on Sunday, July 10, 2005, at 3 p.m. The service was held at Smyrna Church in the Meadow community, where he has served as interim pastor for the past several months. Richard is a member of the Cape Fear Conference.

The worship and ordination service was opened with the prelude music of "Holy, Holy, Holy" and "Seek Ye First" with Richard's wife, Gayle, playing the piano and his son, Austin, playing the violin. The Rev. Sam Weeks, chair of the Cape Fear Conference Ordaining Council, presided and assisted with the signing of the Code of Ethics followed by a special song by a friend of the family, Pam Strickland. The main message was delivered by the Rev. Billy Nowell, Richard's former pastor, and the Rev. Frank Harrison presented the personal charge. The Rev. Aubrey Williamson presented Richard with a Bible. A prayer of dedication was given by the Rev. Roy Clifton, and the Rev. Joe Ballance presented Richard with the certificate of ordination. A time of fellowship with refreshments followed the service in the church's fellowship hall.



Pictured is the Rev. Joe Ballance presenting Richard with his ordination certificate.

FREE UNION MEMBER TURNS 93

by Renee Letchworth



The year 1912 was a great year for the Speight, Hardison and Letchworth families. It was the year our Granny was born!

Mrs. Helen Speight Hardison was born on September 6, 1912. She later married Mr. Leslie Hardison and continued to live in Greene County with her family. She was widowed at an early age of 45 but continued to live a strong, full life with her work.

She worked at Rest Homes in Shine and Goldsboro. Her favorite job was started in 1968 at what was known then as the Kennedy Home in Kinston, NC. She worked there for 19 years and left at the age of 75. (Yes, you read that right!) She then continued to work as an aid to various shut-ins until the age of 87.

This past September, Mrs. Hardison celebrated her 93rd birthday with family at her home.

She is currently the oldest physically able to attend member of Free Union Church in Walstonburg and stays active there in the Luther Heath Sunday School Class and the Silver Threads. She still drives and loves to cook. She makes the meanest collards and red velvet cake around; just ask her grandchildren and great-grandchildren!

She has recently moved to Farmville and is living there with her daughter, Ann. She has two children, Ann Letchworth and Leslie Hardison of Wilson. She has six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.



We Still Believe

In Fun, Friends and Fellowship

Golf Tournament • CF Walk • Pickle Classic Basketball
Pizza • Roundups • Focus groups • Vis Com, Dall House Guys,
former professors, etc.

In Caring, Celebrating and Learning

Business Breakfast Briefing • Criminal Justice Seminar
Teacher/Educators Gathering • Science Seminar • Alumni Awards
Life Long learning classes • Hands-on "college" classes for children



In Community, Remembering and Thanksgiving

President's Breakfast • Memorial Service at the Alumni Cross Walk • Praise and Worship Service in Rodgers Chapel



Mount Olive College Alumni Weekend

November 18-20, 2005

For more information on any of the above events and activities, contact
Dianne B. Riley (919) 658-7761 or driley@moc.edu

*Friendship
Original Free Will Baptist
Church*

Annual Homecoming
Sunday, October 23, 2005

Sunday School begins at 9:45 A.M.
Worship begins at 11:00 A.M.

Aubrey Williamson, a former pastor,
will bring the morning message.

*Come worship and fellowship
with us and enjoy a picnic lunch
following the service!*

You are cordially invited to:

**The Dedication of
Blended Fellowship's
Building**

**November 19, 2005
10:15 A.M.**

2091 Big Daddy's Road,
Pikeville, NC

**Special music by:
Blended Hands Signing Choir**

Lunch will be provided.
(In conjunction with the Cape Fear Annual Conference)
Registration Begins at 8:30 A.M.

**CAMP VANDEMERE
SPECKLED TROUT FISHING TOURNAMENT
November 5, 2005**

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November 2005



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November 2005



CHILDREN'S HOME MONTH

Meeting dates and locations are subject to change. You are encouraged to call in advance to confirm meeting schedules.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 ALL SAINTS DAY	2	3	4 State Layman's League, Camp Vandemere Meal, 6 P.M.	5
6	7	8	9	10 Layman's League Executive Board, VFW Building, Snow Hill, 7 P.M. Central Conference, Black Jack Church, Greenville	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 Cape Fear Conference, Blended Fellowship, Pikeville
20	21	22	23	24 THANKSGIVING	25	26
27	28	29	30			

COMING SOON:

December 8: Layman's League Executive Board
Meeting, VFW Building, Snow Hill, 7 P.M.

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POWER VERSE

Enter into his gates with thanksgiving,
and into his courts with praise: be
thankful unto him, and bless his name
(Psalm 100:4).

I CAN'T—BUT HE CAN!

Focus. It sounds simple enough. But, oh, how difficult it really can be. These days it's hard to sit down and put your mind to a task—and focus on that task. We've got so many things going through our minds. Day in and day out we think about or worry over troubles, family strife, difficult people, our jobs, our communities, our national and even our church leaders. And yet the whole time we know what the Bible says to do: "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest...and *you will find rest for your souls*" (Matthew 11:28, 29c NASB, *italics added*). We need to take our troubles to the Creator and Sustainer of life, let Him take them completely over, and He will take care of them. Worry no more!

Any questions?

by Darren E. Davenport, Editor

THE MEASURE OF SPIRITUALITY

by C. H. Overman, Editor Emeritus, Guest Writer

In Matthew 23, Jesus pronounced some very stern rebukes (woes) against the scribes and Pharisees. What was the reason for Jesus' righteous anger? It was their hypocrisy, of course! In verse 3 Jesus declared, "...for they say, and do not." In reality they claimed a righteousness based upon their works, a religion that lacked "judgment, mercy, and faith" (v. 23). Their religious garb, the uppermost seats in the synagogues, their long prayers, their hypocritical oaths, their pretense in tithing, and their outward appearance of righteousness resulted in Jesus' declaring, "...within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity" (v. 28).

If religion alone would make one righteous, then most people would be saved. Likewise, if the methods and outward show of spirituality would bring salvation, then all "who put on such a show" would be saved. Spirituality is more than church attendance and church activities. It is not a matter of who can pray the longest or most beautifully worded prayer, or who is the most musically gifted, or who appears to be the busiest. While all of these factors, and many others, play a role in the manifestation of true spirituality, one must exemplify a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ and bear witness to the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, as expressed in the words of Paul to the Galatians: "...the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law" (Galatians 5:22-23).

Expressions of one's faith in worship vary in many ways.

Some are physical, such as clapping with the rhythm of the music, the raising of the hands, an occasional "amen," or "thank you Lord," have become more commonplace in our worship services. Some like the contemporary style of music, and some like it loud. Some, however, find deeper reverence and worship in calm and quietness. Because of these differences, some churches now provide different worship services in an effort to appeal to all. Thus, in some cases, congregations are separated—never, or seldom, worshipping together. The youth meet in one part of the church, or in some activity, while the traditional services are carried on at the same hour. We now have praise choruses and contemporary songs with their repetitious lyrics.

It is my prayer that all these developing trends will truly advance His Kingdom, that the true message of salvation is being heralded forth in a society and world that needs the message

so desperately. True spirituality is rooted in Him, and in Him we bear the fruit of the Spirit. It is our inward condition that matters—a heart cleansed by His grace.

A Thought to Ponder: A generation or two ago most of our churches held worship services only one or two Sundays per month. A faithful member would attend all services, including the mid-week prayer service, for a total of perhaps six to eight services. With what we now call full-time services, one attends twelve or more services. Does this indicate that one generation is more spiritual, or faithful, than the other?

Reflections

Home Missions Trip to Mississippi

Submitted by the Reverend Todd Sutton

The following article is written as journal entries...

September 19, 2005

Early in the morning we arose to make our way along the first leg to Mississippi. Though it was early by some standards, immediately the people from our team began to fall into place and work together. We each had seen the pictures, the clips, the news broadcasts with faces of emotion, the hurting people and we each had felt a tugging, the call if you will, to assist those who were affected. Our hearts seemed to be urging us to reach out. And now we had the opportunity to reach out and assist, thereby following through with the beckoning of our hearts.

We were blessed with the providence of God as we traveled, and we stopped for the day slightly west of Atlanta. It had been a long day of travel and we needed to rest some this evening in order that we would be in adequate condition to serve as God would open doors on the next day.

Before we retired for the evening, we were led in our evening devotion by Mr. James Stokes. He spoke to us concerning the story of "The Good Samaritan." Truly this is a unique opportunity for all of us, especially the Original Free Will Baptists to reach out to those in need. Let us seek to be obedient to the Word of God and "do unto others as we would have them do unto us." As tired as we were, we each had calls that needed to be made to our loved ones back home and showers to take before bedding down.

Before I turned in, I opened my pocket Bible and turned to Psalm 90. I read the words while drowning out a football game on the television and as I read, I came to the last verse of Psalm 90, and I was encouraged all the more and now even more so, I am eager to wake in the morning. "And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it."

September 20, 2005

When we arrived, we unloaded a trailer that was filled to capacity with water, food supplies, kits that had been prepared and donated for distribution, as well as the suitcases and the supplies that would be needed by the team from the smaller trailer. It was not long before some kids from the area came and requested some water. They were carrying skate boards. Amid the destruction we had witnessed, they were trying to move on with their lives.

Later the same evening, I was very fortunate to witness some young boys playing football. They were padded, wearing uniforms, and had their helmets strapped on. I watched as they played for a moment and then I had to get back to the group. It was good to see the parents trying to restore some routine back in the lives of their children, although many of their homes were damaged due to the effects of Katrina.



Our group of 17 pose for a picture at the state of Mississippi welcome center. From left to right, front row (kneeling)—Vance Head, Michael Griffin, and Ken Radford (all from Harrell's Chapel, Greene County), the Rev. Todd Sutton (Daly's Chapel, Seven Springs), and Ed Avery (First Church, Kinston). Second row (standing)—Roy Wetherington (Gethsemane Church, New Bern), the Rev. Cliff Harwood (Pleasant Plain Church, Selma), Ledford Wilson (Harrell's Chapel), Bill Armitage (Marlboro Church, Farmville), Jimmy Spear (Deep Run Church, Deep Run), Ivey Outlaw (Daly's Chapel), Deborah Hare (Pleasant Grove Church, Wayne County), Jean Weeks (Dublin Grove Church, Aurora), Frances Stokes (Silver Creek Church, Swansboro), Bethany Coggins (Gum Swamp Church, Pitt County), James Stokes, (Silver Creek Church), and Betty Wetherington (Gethsemane Church).

September 21, 2005

It is hard to accept sometimes, but the longer I live, the more I believe and the more it is confirmed, that there is a purpose behind everything. I don't know why God allows some things to happen, but the Bible informs us that we would face trials and tribulations. Life will not always be a bed of roses, of that we can be sure. But I am especially grateful when the roses do come.

I am also grateful to be on this expedition of assistance because it is a very real and tangible way to share the love of Christ with people. For ministry to be effective it has to come in contact with people and meet their needs, physical, as well as spiritual.

(Continued on next page)

There were two homes on the first lot we assisted. The home we repaired was actually an old trailer that was placed behind a man's home. The trailer belonged to his son; however, it has already been declared a total loss, yet he still had many of his belongings inside. We placed tarps on the roof to prevent further damage to the contents of the home as well as framed and covered the end of it, which had literally been torn off by a tree as it fell.

We had not been there long when they came out and brought us drinks. The weather down in the southern part of Mississippi feels like the July weather in eastern North Carolina, which is hot and extremely muggy. The expected highs were to be around 95°–98° today and we were instructed by our Coordinator, Mr. Roy Wetherington, to take plenty of breaks and keep plenty of fluids in our system to keep our bodies hydrated.

There were three groups that went out today to help with repair from the storm. Two groups focused on cleaning debris such as trees out of the yards and the other group, of which I was a part, worked primarily on temporary repair of the roof tops of various houses. The "roofing crew" included Jimmy Spear, Bill Armitage, Ledford Wilson, and myself. One of the main factors we had to keep in mind was safety first. If a job looked risky, or if we were unsure whether it could be done safely, we were to move on.

The second home we went to was a brick house and a woman lived there with her fifteen-year-old daughter. The woman's name is Tammy Kilpatrick and her husband is deployed in Iraq with a National Guard unit. We attached a tarp to completely cover one side of her roof, which had the majority of the shingles blown from it. Her husband had been very concerned about their home and she assured him not to worry about it because she would take care of it somehow. He needed to focus on his responsibilities there and get home safe. She stayed outside and watched as we worked on the roof and, ironically enough, just as we were finishing up, he called from Iraq to check on things. A burden had been lifted from his and her shoulders. As we prepared to leave, she thanked us for the work we had done. I told her when she talked to her husband again, to tell him thank you for the work he was doing serving our country.

Some of the people from the community came by the "base camp," to request some of the supplies, canned foods, water, and the different kits that had been prepared for them. Our base camp is an old school that is being used as a community center. We are staying in the old lunchroom, and using the facilities in the kitchen for the preparation of our meals.

I have noticed something very significant; we are reaching out to people and following through with a word Christ gave us. Jesus told us in Mark 9:41, "I tell you the truth, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to Christ will certainly not lose his reward" (NIV). In many ways our small efforts have touched lives and I pray they will not forget but will look deeper in our efforts to discover the driving force that encourages us to press forward and that is the love of God flowing to us and through us as we minister in his name and represent the Original Free Will Baptist Church.



Michael Griffin and Bill Armitage are seen helping unload the variety of kits at Juniper Grove in Poplarsville, Mississippi, which were prepared by many from the OFWB Churches in eastern North Carolina.

Wednesday afternoon we traveled about an hour further south and the devastation was getting progressively worse. We arrived in Poplarsville, Mississippi, at Juniper Grove Baptist Church. The church was absolutely beautiful and lay in a pasture with a small lake in front of it. We were greeted by Mr. Joe Mac Smith and his wife, Mrs. Doyle Smith. Mr. Smith is the chairman of their deacon board. We unloaded the supplies and they showed wonderful hospitality to us as we were offered some cold water before making the trip back to base camp. During the conversation with Mr. Smith he shared with us the church was celebrating their 150th anniversary. I asked if they would mind standing with our group for a picture in front of the church. They were a bit camera shy but seemed up to the challenge.

We then went out in front of the church for a group shot. Mr. Smith introduced me to their pastor, the Rev. John Sapp and he asked about our efforts in helping with the victims of the hurricane. He told me that many people from their church and community had been blessed with the different kits that were given. Some of the main kits that were needed included infant and bedding kits. Many families from their church and community had been affected by the storm. According to Mrs. Smith, the pastor's home was damaged significantly as well. As good-byes were said, one resounding theme was heard, which was "Tell your church thank you for helping us." The Original Free Will Baptist Church touched many lives through the generosity and immediate response to those in need and the people are very appreciative to say the least.

On a different note, I am laying in my bed as I write this entry. The rest of the guys have turned in, I am looking around our sleeping quarters and please allow me a brief description of our accommodations. Twelve men stayed in sleeping quarters of approximately 24 x 60 feet. The five women stayed in a camper. We all shared one bathroom and one shower. Fortunately for us another shower was finished on Wednesday to help facilitate the bathing process. Ken Radford, Vance Head, and Michael Griffin from Harrell's Chapel Church worked diligently in the little spare time they

(Continued on next page)

had to get us and the work crews that will follow a second working bathing facility.

September 22, 2005

The toll was paid yesterday as evidenced by the slower arousals from our bunks this morning. Great progress was made by all the crews, but it was very apparent that the rest from last night was needed by all. Great progress was made this morning to temporarily repair the roofs of three homes. At lunch we returned to base camp, and Roy shared with us the purpose and strategy of the Disaster Relief Ministry. This was a good time for us to learn of the different aspects of this ministry because it is extremely hot at the noon hour.

This afternoon we went to a home on our list of damaged properties and the house extended approximately 75–80 feet in length. Fortunately, those who lived in this home had received a tarp from FEMA, which we put to good use. However, it did not cover all the damaged parts of her roof for we still had to use three of the tarps we had available. During the repair of the home, the lady came out and talked with Bill Armitage, who is the appointed spokesman and safety man for the roofing crew. We learned that her husband had gone to Texas to get some equipment prepared for Hurricane Rita which seems to be going in that direction. She and her daughter were very elated to see us because their roof was in terrible shape and rain is expected tomorrow.

She told Bill that her name was Ernestine “Ernie” Ellis and that this was a great birthday present we were giving her because today is her birthday. I found this to be a special blessing and thought about how God is in complete control. Ten years ago today, my daughter, Laurie, was born to Selena and me. God knew ten years ago that I would be in Mississippi serving him. As I write these words, Bethany Coggins has just finished an absolutely heart-given devotion. Bethany attends Gum Swamp Church, in Pitt County. Her devotion came from the text where we are encouraged by our Lord to help others when they are in need of food, water, and shelter, the basic necessities of life.

I overheard one person label us as the “pioneers” because we were the first of many teams from the Harvest Connection that will be helping the people from this community. It is amazing to see just how much our group has come together. To witness the harmony in which we have worked together this week, one would witness the hand of God upon us. It is just amazing how God works in our lives.

Paul writes in Ephesians, “...unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we may ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us” (3:20). I prayed that our week would be a success and that we would be effective as we served in the capacities which are presented. I prayed that we would be a blessing to these people. In hindsight we, or at least I, have discovered that we were the ones that were blessed. God’s infinite wisdom and providential hand has been working and guiding each of us. I trust that this is just the beginning of great things that will happen in the lives of each of these co-laborers on this crew.



Bethany Coggins is seen above as she uses a chainsaw to clear debris.

September 23, 2005

With the approach of Hurricane Rita, the decision was made to halt the chainsaw crew from their clean up work and split their crew into two more roofing crews. After an update on the weather and the direction from Roy, we went to Lowe’s to get additional supplies needed to patch and cover the rooftops of houses. From there we departed to Moselle, the small poor community we have spent most of our time in. Please remember that Mississippi is one of the poorest states in our country and this county is one of the poorest counties in Mississippi. Poverty and poor education seem to go hand in hand, as such seems to be true as we interact with this community. Aside from this, many of these people are much like those from back home.

It is sad to consider that many of these people are being taken advantage of. For example, one lady was charged \$2,700 to get a tree off of some property.

We began this morning by going to a home and repairing a tin roof for a woman. The tin on the roof had received some damage, but it was also very rusted. The roof top would crumble beneath our feet. We placed a tarp on it and secured it firmly.

Later two of the crews came together to combine their efforts on the same home. It was owned by a 22 year old man by the name of Will Davis. The entire back side of the roof, which had been previously constructed with tin, had blown off of his house. They worked to cover that side of his roof.

We were working beside them on another house, which we finished and then went across the road. Once we completed the roof, we made a group decision to head back to camp and get showers and a little rest, because we had worked late the previous day. When we pulled up in the parking lot at the base camp, we unloaded our tools and began walking to the building. It was then we saw a lady leaving a note on the door to the facility. We asked if she needed some assistance. She told us her roof was leaking severely and asked if we could take care of it. We were tired

(Continued on next page)

and were looking forward to some rest. But in our hearts it just did not seem right to tell her that we were quitting for the day; not when she needed our help.

The guys on our crew knew that I needed to make a run to the local grocery store to get something for our devotion later that night. They told me to stay behind and they would take care of it. The lady asked what I needed from the store. It had really been impressed upon me how our group had connected in such a powerful way and I had been experiencing worship this week in our devotions and sharing how God was using us to touch lives. Tonight, I was planning to pick up some juice and bread for our devotional time and have communion. The lady volunteered to get anything I wanted so I could accompany them to her home and make the repairs. When we returned, the bread and juice were there ready to be used.

We ate a delicious meal of BBQ and later gathered for our evening devotion. I shared with the team how we each had made sacrifices to be here and help those in need. Jesus said that he "must work while it is day: [for] the night cometh, when no man can work" (John 9:4). We then observed communion through intinction where we share one common loaf and one common cup of juice. The bread, representing the body of Christ, is dipped into the juice, representing the blood of Christ and consumed together.

As each one came forward there was a sense of peace that was upon each face. This has been a wonderful experience and I will treasure not only the impact that was made in the lives of those who have been helped and how we have served God in this small way, but the bond of those on this team which has developed for each other.



Shown above are some of the guys from Harrell's Chapel Church as they work to repair a roof owned by 22-year-old Will Davis from Mosselle, Mississippi. From left to right, Vance Head, Ken Radford, Ledford Wilson.

September 24, 2005

We went to a home this morning and offered assistance. The job did not take too long and we were finished after only a short while. We were talking with the lady, Mrs. Smith, before departing as her granddaughter, Gracie, came outside to stand with her. Mrs. Smith said, "Me and the good Lord have made it this far without FEMA and with His help, I'll keep on makin' it."

We then went across the road to the home of Mrs. Bonnie Ross, an elderly woman. She had a window broken and a

large amount of the tin on her house had been blown off. We were talking with her and she shared with us that her husband had died ten years before and a few years later she remarried. Her new husband died after only 2 years. She said she thought about changing her name back, but made the statement that still rings in my head, "It really don't matter though 'cause the Lord knows my name." Her son owned her home and he was not available to sign the paper work that was needed for us to do the work. We said a prayer with her, because at that moment that was all we could do. We departed from her house with mixed emotions.

Reluctantly, we left and checked the majority of the names remaining on our list of homes to be repaired. All the ones we checked were either in the process of repair, or had already made arrangements for the repair work. Our minds and our hearts kept returning to Mrs. Bonnie Ross's home that had large portions of her roof exposed to the weather. True we prayed for her, but a part of our prayers being answered sometimes meant rolling up our sleeves and doing what God has given us the strength and the ability to do as we work together.

Many have prayed for revival in our land. We want to see our churches grow. Many are guilty of it. I know I am. Guilty of what? Not putting hands and feet to my prayers. We need to really look out into the fields for they are white, ready for harvest. Yet the laborers are few. Let me assure you, on the word of God, that any act of love that you offer to those on the street, in your neighborhood, in your town, or in your community will not go unrewarded. We returned to her home, she signed a waiver which allowed us to do her work, a small job that only took about an hour or so plus covering a window that had been shattered with plastic to keep the water out of her home.

As we did the work, she was busy working in her yard cleaning up some of the debris. When we finished, we said good-bye to her and she was very grateful. We returned to camp. One of our crew, Ledford Wilson, would be departing today to begin the journey back home. He would be leaving with a group that came from Harrell's Chapel so they could return to work on Monday. Each of them, like the rest of the entire crew had made great sacrifices to be here and serve. We returned to camp, cleaned ourselves up, and had dinner.

During dinner, a group decision was made to clean the facilities, the equipment, and the trucks that night so we could begin our trip home following church services on Sunday. Doing so would enable us to get past Atlanta, which, hopefully, would not have near the amount of traffic it normally would have on a Monday. We had our devotion and went to bed—the last evening we would spend in Sandersville, Mississippi.

September 25, 2005

Because of our schedule today, we were able to sleep a little longer this morning. We will be going to church this morning. A local pastor, the Rev. David Parker, had been by earlier in the week and invited Roy and the rest of us to join

(Continued on next page)

their congregation for service. As a group, we decided to take him up on his invitation and we entered a church, Harvest Fellowship Church, that was literally still under construction.



Each day the group began and ended their time together praying for protection and success as we served.

However, the people met us with open arms and showed real appreciation for the work we had been doing. These folks were happy and thankful, even though many of them had damage done to their homes. Their faith did not seem to have been shaken, but strengthened instead. Pastor David asked if any of our team would like to join the choir for the day. Two of the members from our team joined the choir and sang along as they sang two familiar hymns.

Following the singing, Pastor David asked me if I would like to share something with the congregation. I shared a brief testimony about our experience and the Rev. Cliff Harwood also shared some words with the congregation, as



*Pictured at the left:
Todd Sutton and
Jimmy Spear as
they attach tarps to
the damaged tin roof.*

well. We had a great time with those people and I was blessed to have shared that time with them. God is obviously blessing our interaction and efforts with this community. Following service, we returned to camp. We then shared a wonderful meal of homemade soup and sandwiches. Once we finished loading the luggage in the trailer, we joined hands and Roy Wetherington led us in prayer asking for God to be with us as we traveled home.

Our tally for the time in Sandersville included putting tarps on 27 homes, helping 34 families with food and other items, and cleaning debris from 10 homes. As our coordinator, Roy Wetherington, wrote to us, "Greater than all the physical accomplishments was the spirit that was shared by the entire group. Along with your talents, each person shared something that God had given them and that was the love of a Savior."



Sitting on the beachhouse deck, gazing at the sand dunes below
Observing the gentle waving sea oats, as they are moving to and fro,
Waves cascading softly upon the seashore, sun rising in the sky
Dolphins breaking the water surface, seagulls singing their morning cry,
Makes me feel so insignificant, wondering who am I?
No man can clone a sunrise or copy the ocean waves
God made them for us to enjoy, saying, "Look, at what I have made."
To know that mankind walked these shores as Christ walked by Galilee
Makes me feel so insignificant, wondering who am I?
In all the vastness of the seas, the never ending waves
I hear the voice of my God calling, "Worship Me today,
See what I have made for you," His still small voice cries out.
Oh, praise His name, I'm not the same, I realize there is no doubt,
Not insignificant, but His child, to sing to the world with a shout
God made it all for us to share, His blessing He freely gives
Enjoy each gift that God has made, for Christ we must surely live.

by Jim Howell

*First Free Will Baptist Church, Rocky Mount, North Carolina
September 2, 2005*

What Katrina Can Teach Us

This message was preached by Max Lucado, pastor of Oak Hills Church of San Antonio, Texas on September 10–11, 2005. It is reprinted with permission.

Who would have thought we would ever hear this phrase spoken on a radio news report in America: "Today, about 25,000 refugees were moved from the Superdome in New Orleans to the Astrodome in Houston." For days, we've watched the tragedy continue to unfold in Mississippi and Louisiana and, if you are like me, you've wrestled with feelings of shock and disbelief...feelings that, over the last five years, have become all too familiar. We were barely into the new millennium when we saw towers falling in New York City and planes crashing into the Pentagon and the Pennsylvania farmland. We saw bombs over Baghdad and witnessed the ancient land of Abraham become a war zone for his descendants. You'd think we had seen enough, but then came the tsunami—a roaring wave that sucked life and innocence out to sea. And now the fruits of Katrina. A city sitting in twenty feet of water. Citizens hacking their way

onto roofs and helicopters hovering over neighborhoods. Optimistic rescuers, opportunistic looters, grateful people, resentful people—we have seen it all. And many have seen it up close. Katrina came to San Antonio in the form of 12,500 evacuees. Many of you are meeting them, feeding them, writing checks, and manning shifts. And you, as much as any, have reason to wonder...What is going on here? 9/11, Iraq, tsunami, Katrina. And I didn't mention nor intend to minimize Hurricanes Dennis and Ivan and Emily. Jesus criticized the leaders of his day for focusing on the weather and ignoring the signals: *You find it easy enough to forecast the weather—why can't you read the signs of the times?* Matthew 16:2–3 (MSG). What are we to learn from all of this? Is God sending us a message? I think so. And, I think we'd be wise to pay attention. There are some spiritual lessons that I think God would want us to learn through this tragedy.

The first lesson we see is...

I. The Nature of Possessions: *Temporary*

As you've listened to evacuees and survivors, have you noticed their words? No one laments a lost plasma television or submerged SUV. No one runs through the streets yelling, "My cordless drill is missing" or "My golf clubs have washed away." If they mourn, it is for people lost. If they rejoice, it is for people found. Could Jesus be reminding us that people matter more than possessions? In a land where we have more malls than high schools, more debt than credit, more clothes to wear than we can wear, could Christ be saying: *Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions* (Luke 12:15 NIV)? We see an entire riverboat casino washed up three blocks and placed on top of a house in a neighborhood. You see demolished \$40,000 cars that will never be driven again, hidden in debris. And in the background of our minds we hear the quiet echoes of Jesus saying, *What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul?* (Matthew 16:26 NIV). Raging hurricanes and broken levees have a way of prying our fingers off the stuff we love. What was once most precious now

means little; what we once ignored is now of eternal significance. A friend and I attended a worship service at Antioch Baptist Church last Sunday night. Several African American Church leaders had organized an assembly to pray for the evacuees that have ended up in San Antonio. Many of them sat on the front rows...dressed in all the clothing they owned: t-shirts, jeans. Their faces were weary from the week. But when the music started and the worship began, they came to their feet and sang with tears in their eyes. They were rich. Are you that rich? Were all your possession washed away, could you still worship? Would you still worship? If not, you are holding things too tightly: *Tell those rich in this world's wealth to quit being so full of themselves and so obsessed with money, which is here today and gone tomorrow. Tell them to go after God, who piles on all the riches we could ever manage—to do good, to be rich in helping others, to be extravagantly generous. If they do that, they'll build a treasury that will last, gaining life that is truly life* (1 Timothy 6:17–19 MSG). Through Katrina, Christ tells us: stuff doesn't matter; people do. Understand the nature of possessions.

Be equally clear on:

II. The Nature of People: *Sinners and Saints*

We see the most incredible servants and stories of selflessness and sacrifice. We see people of the projects rescuing their neighbors, we see civil servants risking their lives for people they've never seen. My wife Denalyn and I toured a shelter supervised by one of our neighbors here in San Antonio. We met a family of some twenty cousins and siblings.

One six-year-old girl told Denalyn about the helicopter man who plucked her off a third story porch and lifted her to safety. That child will never know who that man is. He'll never seek any applause. He saved her life...all in a day's work. We saw humanity at its best. And we saw humanity at its worst. Looting. Fighting. We heard stories of rapes and robberies. Someone said, "The heavens declare the glory of God but the streets declare the sinfulness of man." The video footage in New Orleans has confirmed the truthfulness of that quote. Can you imagine not being able to sleep in the Superdome for fear that someone might try to rape your daughter if she went to the restroom in the middle of the night?

We are people of both dignity and depravity. The hurricane blew back more than roofs; it blew the mask off the nature of mankind. The main problem in the world is not

Mother Nature, but human nature. Strip away the police barricades, blow down the fences, and the real self is revealed. We are barbaric to the core. We were born with a me-first mentality. You don't have to teach your kids to argue. They don't have to be trained to demand their way. You don't have to show them how to stomp their feet and pout; it is their nature... indeed it is all of our nature to do so. *All of us have strayed like sheep. We have left God's paths to follow our own* (Isaiah 53:6 NLT). God's chosen word for our fallen condition has three letters, s-I-n. Sin celebrates the letter in the middle. "I." Left to our own devices, we lead a godless, out of control life of *...doing what we felt like doing, when we felt like doing it...* (Ephesians 2:3 MSG). You don't have to go to New Orleans to see the chaos. Because of sin, the husband ignores his wife, grown men seduce the young. The young proposition the old. When you do what you want and I do what I want, humanity and civility implodes. And when the Katrinas of life blow in, our true nature is revealed and our deepest need is unveiled: a need deeper than food, more permanent than firm levees. We need, not a new system, but a new nature. We need to be changed from the inside out.

Which takes us to the third message of Katrina:

III. The Nature of God's Grace: *Inside Out*

Much discussion revolves around the future of New Orleans. Will the city be restored? Repaired? How long will it take? Who will pay for it? One thing is for certain: someone has to clean her up. No one is suggesting otherwise. Everyone knows, someone has to go in and clean up the mess. That is what God offers to do with us. He comes into sin-flooded lives and washes away the old. Paul reflected on his conversion and he wrote: *He gave us a good bath, and we came out of it new people, washed inside and out by the Holy Spirit* (Titus 3:5 MSG). Our sins stand no chance against the fire hoses of God's grace. But he does more than cleanse us; he rebuilds us. In the form of his Holy Spirit, God moves in and starts a complete renovation project. *God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us* (Ephesians 3:20 MSG). And what we can only dream of doing with New Orleans, God has done with soul after soul, and he will do so with you, **if you let him**. The most disturbing stories from the last week are of those who refused to be rescued. Those who spent their final hours trapped in attics and rooms regretting the choice they'd made. They could have been saved. They could have gotten out...but they chose to stay. Many paid a permanent price.

You don't have to pay that price. What rescuers did for

people on the Gulf Coast, God will do for you. He has entered your world. He has dropped a rope into your sin-swamped life. He will rescue; you simply need to do what that little girl did, let him lift you out. I mentioned my visit to Antioch Baptist Church last Sunday night. A local minister, Pastor L. A. Williams gave a message on this one verse: *But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord* (Genesis 6:8).

The minister helped us see all the things Noah could not find because of the flood. He could not find his neighborhood. He could not find his house. He could not find the comforts of home or the people down the street—there was much he could not find. But what he could find made all the difference. Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord. Noah found grace in the eyes of God. If you have everything and no grace, you have nothing. If you have nothing but grace, you have everything. Have you found grace? If not, I urge you to do what that little girl told us she did. When the rescuer appeared on her porch, she grabbed him, closed her eyes, and held on.

That's all you need to do. And if you never have, and would like to, I urge you to reach for the hand of your rescuer, Jesus Christ. Your Redeemer lives, too. This hurricane was his tool to get your attention. Trust in Him while you still can. ▲



NOVEMBER—CHILDREN'S HOME MONTH



November is Children's Home Month within the Free Will Baptist denomination. Please take time this month to support the Home with your prayers and your contributions.

As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday, stop and reflect on the blessings that God has so graciously bestowed upon you, reflect on the family that God has blessed you with, and then, pray that the children we serve at the Free Will Baptist Children's Home can find peace in knowing they are loved, and that they are part of a family of caring Free Will Baptists, and most of all, part of the Family of God.

For many of the children we serve, holidays are just like any other day, a day of uncertainty. They don't know the joy and anticipation of celebrating with family, sharing turkey dinner and all the trimmings. But, with your help, the things that we may consider the standard fare of the day (dinner celebrations, plenty of food, clean clothes, personal safety, and learning God's word) are becoming realities.

The Free Will Baptist Children's Home extends to you heartfelt thanks and gratitude for all you have done, and continue to do. May God's blessings rain upon you during this upcoming time of remembrance and thanksgiving. We covet your prayers and your continued support, as we continue to minister to the needs of His children, as we were called to do some 85 years ago.

CHRISTIANS SHARING THEIR BLESSINGS

We're always pleased to have you visit with us. Below are some of our most recent visitors.

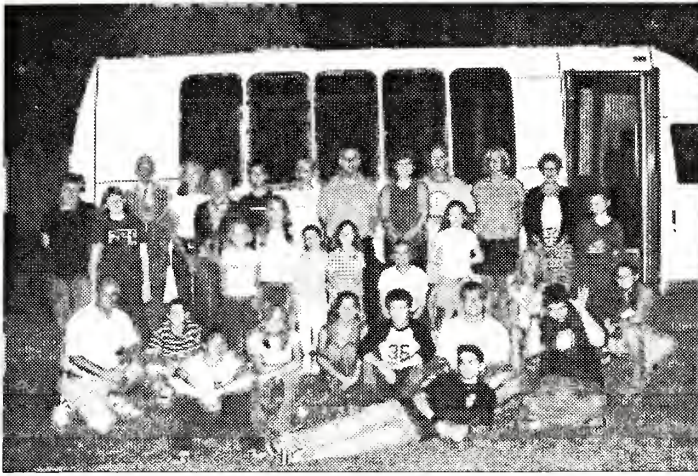


Friendship Church, Middlesex, provided a hotdog supper with all the trimmings on Friday night, September 30, 2005. There was good food and great fellowship.



On September 10, 2005, Free Union Church, Walstonburg, NC came to campus with a group of youth and adults for a campus tour, and to drop off commodities collected by their church. Stan Cunningham, one of the members of Free Union, had built us two much needed utility carts for transportation of goods from place to place.

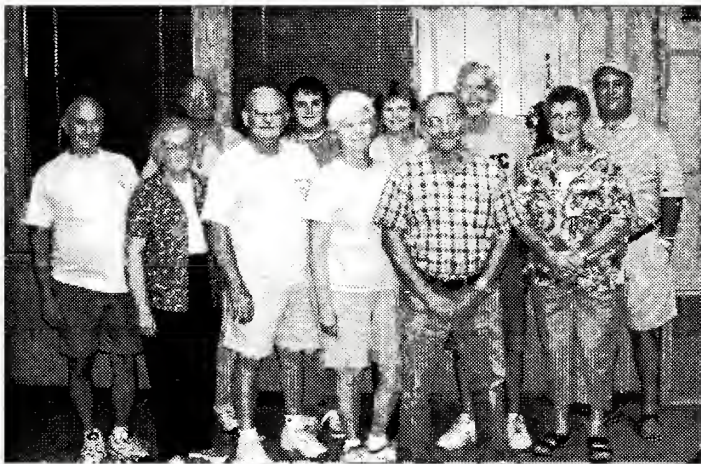
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Worship 101 presented message in song at "Rally in the Valley," held at the Home on Sunday, October 2, 2005. Worship 101, a youth band from Rose Hill Church, Winterville, NC, is busy sharing the love of God through message in song, and challenging young adults to accept Christ as their personal Savior. Everyone had a great time of fellowship.



Mid September, woman's auxiliary members from Winterville FWB Church visited the Home to bring by supplies they had collected.



We are blessed to have many repeat visitors, who come and visit with us to share a meal and fellowship. On Tuesday, September 27, members of the "Woodmen of the World," Lucama Lodge, shared a hotdog dinner with us. Many of the people shown in the picture are also members of churches in the Western Conference.

HOME HOSTS NASH COUNTY MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE SUPPER



On Tuesday night, October 4, it was our privilege to work hand-in-hand with Ms. Jean Ackiss, Director of Church Support, Mount Olive College, in hosting the Nash County Mount Olive College Dinner.

Music was provided by "Free Spirit," a music ministry made up of Mount Olive College students. In addition to the singing, the choral instructor presented music on the bagpipe.

*Please remember the
Children's Home in your prayers
and with your financial support.*

1920-2005 CELEBRATING 85 YEARS OF CHRISTIAN CHILDCARE

Dear Friends:

The Christmas season is almost here, and as we start preparations for the season, we must stop and give thanks to God that we have been afforded the privilege of sharing Christmas with His children for 85 Christmases. Many things have changed over the past 85 years, but sadly, there are still children who do not know what it's like to experience joy and happiness during the holidays.

Can you imagine the joy for a child when they experience their first real Christmas, a Christmas without abuse, without being hungry, and a Christmas not having to be alone. For many of the children we serve, Christmas is just another day. But with your help, we are sharing with them the true spirit of Christmas giving, and unselfish love.

For many, sharing with us at Christmas, and at other times throughout the year has become a family tradition. Again this holiday season, we invite you to be part of our sponsorship program and make a child feel special this Christmas. You can help by contributing \$100 for each child you would like to sponsor. Simply complete the Sponsorship Reservation form below, and return it to us by December 1, 2005.

May the warmth and glow of the Holiday Season be upon you in knowing that through sharing you have added a ray of light in the life of a child. Please accept my wishes to you and your family for a Blessed Christmas and a wonderful Holiday Season.

Yours, For His Children,
Bobby R. Taylor
President

FREE WILL BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME Christmas Sponsorship Reservation Form

Sponsor: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

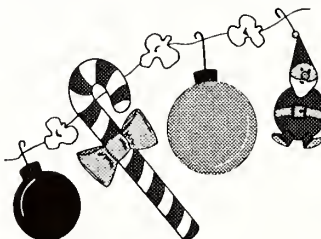
Telephone: _____

Number of Children We would like to Sponsor @ \$100 per child: _____

CAMPUS NEEDS LIST

In planning for the holiday season, there are some items needed for the individual cottages.

- Den furniture (\$3000—cottage)
- Full and Queen size sheet sets and comforters
- Table Lamps (for cottage dens)
- Printer cartridges (call for details)
- Corelle Dish Sets (8 place settings per cottage)
- Sturdy hard plastic tumblers/drinking glasses
- Camcorder/DVD compatible
- Christmas Decorations for individual cottages (ornaments and table centerpieces)





BETHEL FREE WILL BAPTIST MISSION Ramos Arizpe, Coah. (Saltillo, Mexico)

by Antonio Escobar Pena

In the month of July, Rachel and Chris were here at this mission, with a children's program. However, since the mission is a new place, we made a general invitation not only for children and young people, but for the parents also to come to hear and see the work being done with their children, and the teaching given them from the Word of God.

The Lord is working in a marvelous way in this effort not only for children, but for adolescents, and the women. All have been made awake with an interest to know and learn the Scriptures.

All of this has made a noticeable change in the group that we have. The parents have taken notice of this, and we also are working with them sharing the Word of the Lord. In the little time that Rachel and the group that came with her was here, the group learned to love them.

We did not make an invitation to bring in many children. The purpose of this mission is to gain, edify, and to establish this group in a firm faith in God and His Word. This is our goal. Working with small groups gives us the opportunity to teach them well the way of the Lord. As this group grows and matures, we shall continue with a new group. We are also working in homes, maturing the complete family. Working in the homes gives us the opportunity not only to win one child, but the whole family. This is our plan and working goal. All of this is not easy, but the Lord will give us the victory, and He shall be glorified.



Rachel Embler (far right) teaching children.



Bethel FWB Mission, Ramos Arizpe, Saltillo, Mexico



Brother Antonio Escobar with a group of children.

**QUESTION: WHAT IS THE
SUPREME TASK OF THE CHURCH?**

**ANSWER: JESUS SAID,
"Go ye into all the world and preach
the gospel to every creature"
(Mark 16:15).**

**Our local witness and our giving to
reach the rest of the world with
the Gospel are true gauges of
how much we believe this!**

THE FULFILLMENT

by Pastor Arman R. Manzano

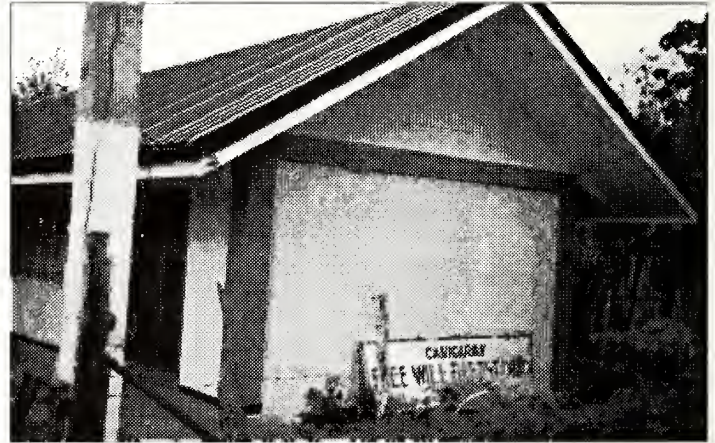
Every heart of men and women long for the fulfillment of its desire to see the substance of their faith in God and His unchanging promises to us that never fails.

After years filled with prayers and supplications asking to Him for the completion of our church building here in Canigaran Free Will Baptist Church, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan, our hearts shout with joy seeing the beauty of His promise to those who trust in Him. Now Canigaran Church building has been completely finished.

Thus, we want to express our gratitude and thanks to our heavenly Father. He granted our prayers and the fulfillment of what we longed to see. He had touched the hearts and minds of our brethren. We are expressing our heartfelt joy and thanks to our beloved brethren in North Carolina, USA, through the Rev. Harold Jones who were used by God as instruments of blessings for the completion of our church building here in Canigaran. Our congregation wherein the flocks of our great Shepherd gather together, singing, praising, and glorifying God that edifies each other.

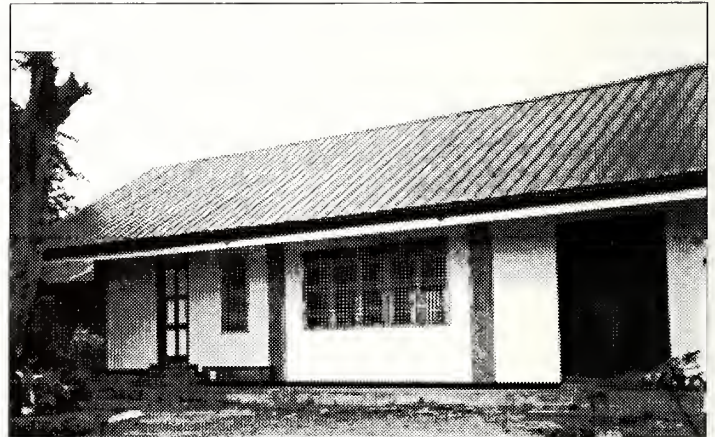
To Him be the glory and honor forever and ever! Thank you so much. We know that God will really bless those who bless His ministry.

*Right Side View of
Canigaran Free Will
Baptist Church*



Front view of Canigaran Free Will Baptist Church

*Back View of Canigaran
Free Will Baptist Church*



Left Side View of Canigaran Free Will Baptist Church

*Canigaran Church
says, "Thank You!"*

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY

by Nerry Peralta

The Light House Free Will Baptist Fellowship, pastored by the Rev. Jaapal Ontong at Calawag, Taytay, Palawan, Philippines held their 6th church anniversary July 17, 2005.

I had the privilege to attend when they invited me as their speaker. I challenged the congregation concerning thankfulness and being a good steward of God.

There were about one hundred who attended this blissful occasion. They enjoyed singing God's praise and worshipping the Lord.

This congregation is a fully indigenous church. All church services are done through the unselfish service of five dedicated deacons. Pastor Jaapal Ontong only visits them and gives supervision as needed. This is our dream for all local churches here in the Philippines.



The Rev. Jaapal S. Ontong prayed for the children.



Pastor Bobby Marquez rendered a special song.



Pastor Nerry Peralta giving the message of God.



The congregation listening to the message.

Jesus said, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the son, and of the Holy Ghost" (Matthew 28:19).



SUNDAY SCHOOL OPPORTUNITIES FOR NOVEMBER 2005

November 4, 2005

Little Rock OFWB Church, Lucama, NC

7–9 P.M.

Understanding the Advent Season—This workshop will consist of assistance in understanding the timing for the Advent season, usage and meaning of the Advent wreath, colors associated with the Advent season, Hanging of the Greens, and the Chrismon Ornaments and Tree.

November 5, 2005

Little Rock OFWB Church, Lucama, NC

9 A.M.–12 NOON

Teaching for All Ages—This session will include understanding the developmental characteristics and teaching strategies for various ages in the Sunday School. There will be sessions for Preschool, Elementary School, Middle School, High School, Young Adults, and Older Adults. A short session at the beginning will be on motivating teachers.

November 10, 2005

Marlboro OFWB Church, Farmville, NC

7:30 P.M.–9 P.M.

Utilizing Learning Stations—This session will focus on organizing and understanding the use of learning stations to effect learning at various ages in the Sunday School. Different kinds of learning games and activities will be used.

November 21, 2005

Daniel's Chapel OFWB Church, Wilson, NC

7–9 P.M.

Developing Community Through Small Groups—This session will focus on how we can use the setting of small groups in the church to help people feel a sense of belonging in order to “close the back door” to keep those who come in the “front door” actively involved.

JUST A REMINDER

The Annual Sunday School Institute will be held at Mount Olive College on **Saturday, February 25, 2006. Please note the change in date and plan to attend.** The Theme will be *Building on the Rock Through Teaching and Learning*. There will be 36 workshops in all facets of church work from the pastors to the youth workers.



NEWS, NOTES, AND PRAISE FROM AROUND OUR DENOMINATION

Pastor Darrell Newberry reports another baptism recently at **Zion Church** in Blakely, Georgia.

Pastor Stephen Norris, **Spring Hill Church**, Goldsboro, welcomes one new member in October.

Pastor Tom Parrish reports *3 salvation and two new church members* in the last month at **Bethany Church** in Wadesboro.

Pastor Garland Suggs reports *2 salvations* during their recent revival at **Mt. Calvary Church** near Whiteville, NC.

Linda Wethersby reports for **Winterville Church**. *Three people were baptized on September 18*. The church will be celebrating its 100th Anniversary on November 6.

Pastor De Eakes beams when he talks about **Little Rock Church**. *God has blessed them with 10 baptisms and 8 new members by letter in the past year*.

Micro Church's pastor, the Rev. Al Warrick, sends this report, "We celebrated our 100th Anniversary at Homecoming on September 25, 2005. We have also accepted seven new members by letter this year and baptized a new convert on Sunday night, October 2."

Pastor Harry G. Brown, **Horton Road Church**, celebrated 40 years in the ministry on October 17.

Powhatan Church in Clayton had 2 baptisms in September. Also, a family of four that has been attending for a while officially came forward and joined the membership roll.

Shady Grove Church celebrated 155 years of ministry on October 16.

Don't forget:

November 10—Central Conference meets at Black Jack

November 19—Cape Fear Conference meets at Blended Fellowship

As we pause this month to think about and give thanks for God's blessings on our lives, let's also remember those who have lost everything in the wake of storms, fires, earthquakes, wars and more. When you bow your head to give thanks for a table full of food, remember the words of Jesus, "...For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required..." (Luke 12:48). As we continue to give God the glory, He will continue to pour out His blessings. Keep sending your reports of God's outpouring so we can share His goodness with others. Send them, via e-mail to <buddy@ofwbheadquarters.org> or P.O. Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513. And remember this *...when we all get in tune with the visions, goals, and direction of our Ministries and the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists, we will truly be amazed at how much our people do...as long as it doesn't matter who gets the credit.*



Happy Thanksgiving!

*from the Management and Staff
of
The Free Will Baptist Press and
Ayden, Kinston, and New Bern
Bible Bookstores*

CHURCH MINISTRY RESOURCE SURVEY

The Original Free Will Baptist Church Ministry Resource Team is establishing a Resource File of persons from churches in our denomination who could offer assistance in planning, developing, and implementing various programs, workshops and/or services for use by all our churches. We are surveying our people in order to get to know the people in all conferences and associations who could possibly assist in "Churches Helping Churches." Please complete this survey and return it to: The Reverend Buddy Sasser, Director of Convention Services, P.O. Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513; phone, (252) 746-4963, FAX: (252) 746-7993, e-mail: <administrator@ofwbheadquarters.org>.

Thank you ahead of time for doing this for us. We feel it will be of great use as we further the growth and service of the Original Free Will Baptist Denomination.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

CHURCH: _____ CONFERENCE: _____

JOB IN THE LOCAL CHURCH: _____

EDUCATION STATUS: (Please check the appropriate space.)

- High School Graduate _____
- College Graduate _____ Degree(s) _____
- Name of College(s)/university attended and the year graduated _____

CURRENT VOCATION: (Briefly describe.) If this is in education, please give the grade or position held and the location.)

JESUS, THE MESSIAH

(John 4:25–26; Matthew 16:13–16)

by The Reverend Leon Grubbs

I. Introduction:

- A. Definition: “messiah” means “anointed one.” Although the word “messiah,” is used only three times in the Bible (Daniel 9:25–26; John 4:25), the concept of Messiah is found numerous times throughout Scripture. (The word, “Christ,” also means “anointed one.”)
- B. God promised to send the Messiah.
- C. The Jewish people believed (and still believe) the Messiah promised by God would come as a conquering hero to deliver Israel from the tyranny and injustice of the nations who invaded, harassed, or ruled over them. At his coming, the messiah would restore them, “his chosen people,” to a place of prominence and establish peace and justice.
- D. Christians know the Messiah to be Jesus the Christ. He came in the first advent to offer salvation to “whoever will believe.” He will come again to establish His Kingdom on Earth where He will reign as King of Kings and Lord of Lords.
- E. Messiah’s desire is to offer salvation to all and “reign” in their hearts as Savior and Lord.

II. The Messiah promised in the Old Testament:

(References to the Promised One are too numerous to list in a single message. Key Scriptures are offered to support the various facets of the Messiah’s role.)

- A. (Genesis 3:15): The first reference in the Bible to the Promised One.
- B. (Genesis 12:3): He would come as a descendant of Abraham to bless all “families” of the Earth.
- C. (Isaiah 7:14): He would be born to a virgin.
- D. (Micah 5:2): He would be born in Bethlehem.
- E. (Isaiah 53:3): He would be rejected by His own people.
- F. (Isaiah 53:5–12): He would suffer and die for the sins of all.
- G. (Psalm 16:10; 49:15) He would rise from the grave.
- H. (Psalm 68:18): He would ascend back into Heaven.

III. The Promise of Messiah fulfilled in Jesus.

- A. (Galatians 4:4): God sent the Messiah in His own timing.

PULPIT AIDS



(In an effort to keep our churches focused on the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists’ annual theme, the Office of Convention Services is offering a monthly presentation outline to use at your discretion. No credit is necessary and you may add to this outline based upon your needs.)

- B. (Luke 1:26–35): God told a virgin, Mary, she would become the mother of the Promised One.
- C. Many people declared Jesus to be the Messiah.
 - 1) (Matthew 16:16): Simon Peter
 - 2) (John 11:27): Martha, sister of Lazarus
 - 3) (Mark 11:9–10): Many of the general population
- D. (John 4:25–26): Jesus declared Himself to be the Messiah.
- E. Jesus accepted the triple role declared for the Messiah as...
 - 1) King (Palm Sunday: Mark 11:1–10)
 - 2) Prophet (compare to Deuteronomy 18:15 and Acts 3:20, 22)
 - 3) Priest (compare Psalm 110:4 and Hebrews 5:5–6)
- F (John 1:11): He was rejected by His own.
- G. (Isaiah 53:12 and Mark 15:27–28) He was crucified with two malefactors.
- H. (Mark 16:6–7) He arose from the grave.
- I. (Mark 16:19): He ascended back into Heaven.
- J. (Acts 1:11): He will come again.

IV. Conclusion:

Jesus is the Messiah promised by God. In Jesus are fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies concerning Messiah.

He comes to us as individuals to rid us of the tyranny of sin. He desires to establish His Kingdom in the hearts of all who will receive Him as their personal Messiah.



WEDDING AT CRAGMONT



On the first day of October, two thousand and five, Kristen Syvonue Carroll and Scott Dennis Satterfield, Jr. were married at Cragmont Assembly. While there have been weddings here at Cragmont in the past, this one was unique because family and guests stayed the entire weekend.

THE HOLLIFIELD HOUSE—UPDATE

The Hollifield House is a three bedroom, one bath house located directly across the street from the main building. Used more and more by groups and families throughout the year, this cottage is in dire need of renovation. We are pleased to inform everyone that the WORK HAS BEGUN! Roy Wetherington and other volunteers associated with our Disaster Relief Ministry arrived on August 22nd and began the task of replacing the roof. This work was completed on August 24th. Bill Keen and Tim Stocks from Ormondsville Church arrived on the 29th and began removing and replacing the windows. This task was finished on the 31st. Many, many thanks to Roy, Bill, Tim and the other volunteers for the generous gift of their time and talent on this project. The following is a partial list of needs along with estimated material costs. As you can see—we're almost there! We're looking for a group, church or churches who would like to make Project 2005 a reality!

*Replacement Windows—FINISHED

Central Heating/Air—\$4,500—PAID !

*New Roof—FINISHED

Vinyl Siding—\$2,500 – PAID!

NOTE: We have volunteers ready to come and install new vinyl siding—and we're looking for the funds to make this phase a reality. Workers Ready—Funds Needed!

Second Bathroom Addition—\$4,000

New Carpeting/Vinyl—\$3,500

Contact Bryant Hines at (252) 670-8424 if your church, class or organization would be interested in making the Hollifield Project a reality.

*New Kitchen Ceiling—\$400—PAID!

YES! WE HAVE A WEB SITE

Our website at <www.cragmontassembly.com> is now on line and sharing information. Please note that we are still "under construction" and the site is changing and improving each week. Soon this will be the place to go for up-to-the-minute updates and information about Cragmont. There are already links to our golf tournament site, other FWB ministries and even FWB churches. Visit us, register, and stay up-to-date.

NEW PRESENTATION FOR CHURCHES

Cragmont recently purchased equipment which allows us to present a well-constructed large screen visual presentation. Our equipment allows us to present even during morning worship services. This Powerpoint presentation reveals Cragmont from its beginnings all the way to our New Heights Vision. Bryant is scheduling morning, evening, and mid-week services for this new presentation. It is also available to auxiliaries, men's groups, and youth groups on any meeting night. Please contact Bryant at (252) 670-8424 or e-mail at <bryanthines5@aol.com> to arrange for him to visit your church or group.

A CRAGMONT CHRISTMAS 2005

WHEN: December 1-4, 2005
(Thursday-Sunday)

WHERE: Cragmont Assembly, Black Mountain, North Carolina

WHAT: Fellowship and Fun
Shows and Shopping
Eats and Entertainment

HOW MUCH: \$275 covers
1) Lodging at Cragmont
2) Meals at Cragmont
3) Transportation from eastern North Carolina to Cragmont (two days in western North Carolina, from Cragmont back to eastern NC)
4) Entertainment

WHO: We want YOU to fill out the registration form at the right and return it along with \$100 per person deposit to the address below.

Cragmont Assembly, Inc.,
1233 North Fork Road
Black Mountain, NC 28711

CRAGMONT CHRISTMAS 2005

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone day _____ evening _____

Roommate _____

For health reason, I require a ground level room.
Yes _____ No _____

Number in party (\$100 per person deposit) _____

Check _____ Visa _____

MasterCard _____ Discover _____ American Express _____

Card Number _____

Expiration date _____

Mail this form along with \$100 deposit per person to:

Cragmont Assembly
1233 North Fork Road
Black Mountain, NC 28711
Phone: (877) 669-7677
e-mail: <Cragmont@charter.net>



RETIREMENT HOMES MINISTRY

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE IN JESUS' NAME

Praise the Lord! Thanks be to God and our people, we have been able to add two new clients to our program. This now gives us 19 clients.

As of September 1, 2005, the Rev. Daniel Jordan and his wife, Audrey, have been placed in the program. It gave the Board of Directors and me great pleasure in being able to help one of our former pastors and his wife.

Mr. Jordan has served many of our churches over the years. He has done a lot of ministry work to help churches who needed help to get it and also has served many churches as an interim pastor until a permanent pastor could be hired.

I hope you will join the Board of Directors and Retirement Homes staff in welcoming the Jordans aboard. If you would like to contact Mr. Jordan and his wife, their address is: 2912A Buckingham Drive, Wilson, NC 27869. Other pertinent information for them is their phone number, (252) 206-0914 and their birthdays—Dan: December 7, and Audrey: February 11.

While traveling to some of our churches when the pastor has invited me, I am finding that so many of our people have no idea what this ministry is all about. We have a lot of our elderly people who need some help to have a better quality of life and I feel it is our responsibility as Christians to help them have it. I would welcome the opportunity to visit your church at any time to explain this program.

Please continue to lift up the Retirement Homes Ministry in your prayers and continue to pray for our clients. As I think about our clients and those who may need our help that we cannot help at this time, I think of what King Solomon wrote in the book of Proverbs when he said, "Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it" (Proverbs 3:27). God has blessed us all so greatly that none of our people should go lacking for anything.



The Reverend and Mrs. Daniel Jordan



MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

MINISTERIAL SCHOLARSHIP ESTABLISHED IN MEMORY OF THE REVEREND ROBERT NELSON AND HILDA MAE PRICE ROLLINS



Hilda Mae Price Rollins and the Rev. Robert Nelson Rollins

On the first Sunday in October 2005, the announcement was made at Daly's Chapel Church, La Grange, that the Reverend Robert Nelson and Hilda Mae Price Rollins Endowed Ministerial Scholarship Fund had been established at Mount Olive College. The Rev. Robert Nelson and Hilda Mae Price Rollins Scholarship will be awarded annually to an Original Free Will Baptist ministerial student attending Mount Olive College.

Born to Lloyd and Maude Rollins on September 5, 1924, Mr. Rollins grew up in the Free Will Baptist denomination and attended Casey's Chapel, Walnut Creek, Pleasant Grove (Wayne County), Spring Hill,

(Continued on next page)

and Pleasant Hill (Wayne County) churches during the early years of his life. He married Hilda Mae Price from Seven Springs, NC in September of 1947. Born on December 19, 1928, she was the daughter of Roscoe and Annie Mae Jones Price. Their marriage produced seven children, seventeen grandchildren, and eighteen great-grandchildren, many of whom are active members of Free Will Baptist churches. Their daughters, R-Net Rollins Barton and Gwen Rollins Kennedy, and their granddaughter, Marci Rollins-Smart are alumnae of Mount Olive College. Their son, Nelson, is currently pursuing a religion degree through the religion modular program at Mount Olive.

Receiving his license to the gospel ministry on November 21, 1953, from Pleasant Hill Church (Wayne County), Mr. Rollins moved his family to the Dudley community in southern Wayne County and farmed for the Swinson family in the summer of 1955. Shortly after moving, he enrolled at Mount Olive College to begin his educational studies to meet the requirements for ordination. His only mode of transportation was mules and a wagon, so he would farm during the day and walk to Mount Olive College at night. He was ordained by the Western Conference on October 13, 1955.

Serving as a bio-vocational minister for much of his ministry, Mr. Rollins pastored the following churches: Dawson Grove Church, Enfield; New Haven Church, Ernul; Smyrna Church, Blount's Creek; Sound Side Church, Columbia; Mount Tabor Church, Creswell; Williamston Church; La Grange Church; Owens Chapel Church, Wilson County; Pine Level Church, Pine Level; Free Union Church, Pinetown; New Sandy Hill Church, Bailey; Sandy Plain Church, Pink Hill; Harrell's Chapel Church, Greene County; Pleasant Hill Church, Pitt County; Hillsberry Church, Clinton; Davis Church, Davis; and Saint's Delight Church, Pitt County. During his ministry, he also served his denomination in several ways, including serving on the Executive Committee of the Ministerial Association.

Mrs. Rollins always supported Mr. Rollins' ministry in any way she could. Raising the seven children and helping with the farming consumed much of her time. Always an active member of the churches' Woman's Auxiliaries, she attended some of the conferences at Cragmont during her later years of life when Mr. Rollins served churches on a full-time basis. It was while living and serving in the Sandy Plain community

that Mrs. Rollins was diagnosed with colon cancer. She lost the battle to the disease on November 8, 1976, while they were serving Harrell's Chapel Church.

In 1986, Mr. Rollins married Elma Bundy of the Walstonburg area. Following a time of pulpit supply at different Free Will Baptist churches, Mr. Rollins accepted the pastorate of Saint's Delight Church in 1988. On November 15 of that year, Mr. Rollins and Mrs. Elma Rollins were involved in an automobile accident that left them both fighting for their lives. During the early days of Mr. Rollins' confinement at Pitt Memorial Hospital, he developed brain abscesses that eventually weakened his body and caused congestive heart failure. He spent fifteen months between the hospital, nursing home, and rehabilitation center at Pitt Memorial Hospital before going home for a month. He reentered Pitt Memorial Hospital in March of 1989, where he died on the 10th of that month. Mrs. Elma Rollins survived after many months of struggling for her life. She now resides in Snow Hill.

Mr. Robert Nelson and Mrs. Hilda Mae Price Rollins were actively involved in the Original Free Will Baptist denomination throughout their lifetime. They were avid supporters of Mount Olive College, and it is only fitting that the scholarship in their memory be given to ministerial students since Mr. Rollins, his son, Nelson, and his granddaughter, Marci, all have received their training for the ministry from Mount Olive College.

Recipients of the scholarship must be recommended by the church in which they hold membership, the appropriate ordaining council, and by any other references which the College might require. In addition, recipients must demonstrate evidence of good character, a commitment of the Christian ministry and to attaining an education, being hard-working, self-reliant, self-motivated, diligent, and having academic promise. Recipients must also enter into a written agreement to participate in both prescribed academic studies and in a defined extracurricular program, including internships and service projects as may be determined by the College.

Mr. and Mrs. Rollins' son, Nelson, established the scholarship this summer. Daly's Chapel Church has also contributed to the fund. The first recipient of The Reverend Robert Nelson Rollins and Hilda Mae Price Rollins Ministerial Scholarship will be named during the 2006-2007 academic year.

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE HONORS BRIDGE BULDERS

Approximately 510 people attended the 2005 Bridge Builders Appreciation Dinner at Mount Olive College. The dinner is the College's way of thanking contributors from Free Will Baptist churches throughout eastern North Carolina. This year's event was held in honor of 2,072 individuals and church organizations that contributed \$100 or more during the 2004 church annual fund campaign. The church dinner support program totaled \$503,858 last year.

"The Free Will Baptist Bridge Builders are an extremely important part of Mount Olive College. Bridge Builders have the power to build futures for students who attend our institution. We salute and thank these individuals," commented Dr. J. William Byrd, President of the College.

Jean F. Ackiss, director of church support, coordinated the dinner and served as mistress of ceremonies. "Through your prayers and support you have made a difference in the lives of the 3,857 students we served last year. You have shown that you believe in the ministry of Christian higher education. We are grateful that the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists saw the need to give birth to Mount Olive College more than 50 years ago. We thank you for caring enough to provide more than one-half million dollars through the dinner program to help Mount Olive College fulfill its mission," Ackiss remarked.

Dawn Faircloth, a member of Robert's Grove Church in Spivey's Corner, spoke at the Bridge Builders Dinner event. She talked about her amazing, positive experience with Mount Olive College and how it has changed her for the better. Thanking the donors she stated, "You are the ones who are giving people like me the opportunity to experience such great and wonderful things." Faircloth went on to say, "I am very proud of the fact that I chose Mount Olive College."

The highlight of the Saturday's event was a presentation of Christian musical selections by the Mount Olive College Concert Choir and Free Spirit, under the direction of Dr. Alan Armstrong. Prior to the program, inspirational music was provided by Mrs. Jo Ann Parish, from the Folkstone Church in Onslow County.

Members of the Mount Olive College Trojans Baseball team helped serve the donors. Members of the staff and faculty served as table hosts and hostesses. The food was prepared and served by Pioneer College Caterers.



Senior Matthew Grubbs takes a moment to talk with his grandparents, Lottie and Reginald Caroon, before his singing presentation with Free Spirit, the College vocal ensemble, during the 2005 Bridge Builders event at Mount Olive College.

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE PROFESSOR IS AUTHOR OF MAJOR BIBLICAL COMMENTARY



Lloyd R. Bailey, Barrow Professor of Biblical Studies at Mount Olive College, has completed his volume entitled *Leviticus-Numbers*. It took four years of preparation to write this manuscript that consists of 648 pages of biblical commentary and illustrations. Smyth & Helwys, a well-known Baptist publishing

house, just issued this latest volume in a major commentary series on the entire Bible.

In his volume on *Leviticus and Numbers*, Lloyd Bailey reacquaints the reader with a powerful, yet often ignored, theological voice within the biblical canon. "For those

yearning to read the biblical text in all of its richness, I heartily recommend this volume," stated W. Dennis Tucker, Jr., assistant professor of biblical studies at Baylor University in Texas.

The entire Smyth & Helwys Bible Commentary series is innovative both in its content and in its stunning array of illustrative art. Hundreds of maps, photos, drawings, and marginal explanations are used to clarify and illustrate the content of the Bible.

An advance review by a well-known Baptist pastor states that the volume "deserves a place on every Bible student's bookshelf." Another, by a professor at a Baptist college, praises the clarity with which the volume is written and concludes that "This volume is a treasure."

In 1956, Bailey earned an associate of arts degree in

(Continued on next page)

engineering from Mars Hill College, and in 1958, a bachelor of arts degree in physics from Duke University. Upon graduation, he was offered a job with the US Navy to design missiles. Instead of accepting, his interest in biblical studies had intensified to the point where he chose to continue his education at Duke, earning a master of divinity degree in 1961. He attended the Hebrew University in Israel from 1965–1966 and earned his doctorate degree from Hebrew Union College in 1967.

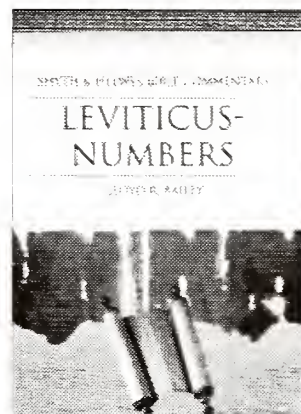
After teaching at Union Theological Seminary in New York, the Yancey County native moved to Durham in 1971, where he became associate professor of Hebrew Bible at Duke University. Having retired from Duke University in 1998, Bailey now divides his time between Mount Olive College and Methodist College in Fayetteville. Today he teaches Old Testament, New Testament, Hebrew Prophets, Introduction to Hebrew Bible, and Religion in an Age of Science among other classes.

Because of his extensive studies, Bailey has authored over 20 religious books and nearly 100 articles. In turn, he has appeared on television documentaries for *A & E*,

The History Channel and *The Discovery Channel*.

Concerning his work in bringing the text to bear on the present, Bailey said: "Unlike the usual commentary that express contemporizations in general and abstract terms, those in the present volume (entitled *Connections*) are often personal and derived from the author's life and observations concerning self, human beings in general, and Protestant Christians in particular. The portrait is not always a flattering one."

Aside from teaching, Bailey maintains an interest in science and genealogy, and he has published several volumes of his family history and on the history of Yancey County. He is married to Judith Bailey and has five sons.



STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION AT MOC

by Michelle Thomas, Senior Class President

On Friday, September 9, students from Mount Olive College traveled to Pelletier Creek for an annual Student Government Association Leadership Retreat. Soon after settling in, the students knew that it was not going to be a boring weekend. "It was going to be an exciting and life changing experience for individuals and for Mount Olive College," said Amy Moody, junior.

Marshal Carter, Dawn Faircloth, Rhonda Houston, and Anthony Thorne, Executive Cabinet officers had planned three days of fun and learning. Twenty leaders from different classes and areas around campus attended the retreat.

Facilitators, Dorothy Oates, Jamie Massengill, Vickie Robinson, Dianne Riley, and Jo Morgan spoke to the SGA about concerns and changes at Mount Olive College. The SGA learned how

they could help around campus with safety and involvement. While at Pelletier Creek, everyone was able to discuss and set many goals for the upcoming year.

A different group of students, freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors each prepared a meal. It was a new experience to see what each class came up with and how they prepared it. Preparing the meals took many leadership skills and teamwork. At the end of the weekend, everyone was sad to go. "It was a weekend of growing as a person and building friendships," said John Caviness, sophomore.



COMING EVENTS

ALUMNI WEEKEND

November 18–20, 2005

This year's theme is "We Still Believe"

Friday, November 18

- 7:30 A.M. Business Breakfast Briefing
- 11:30 A.M. Alumni Golf Tournament at Southern Wayne Country Club
- 12:00 NOON Lunch & Science Lecture with JaNae Joyner '02
- 5:30 P.M. Dinner in Lois K. Murphy Regional Center
- Sigma Tau Delta (English) Dinner
- 6 P.M. 40th Annual Pickle Classic Tournament

- 1 P.M. Planned Giving Seminar with Jeff Daughtry '78
- 2 P.M. Art Exhibit by Jeff Minnish '99 in Teresa Pelt Grubbs Gallery
- College classes for Alumni and children
- 3:30 P.M. Children's inflatable games
- 4:30 P.M. Pickle Classic Consolation Game
- 5 P.M. Pig Pickin' with reunions continuing
- 6:30 P.M. Pickle Classic Tournament—Crowning of King and Queen
- 9 P.M. Beach Music Blast

Saturday, November 19

- 8:30 A.M. Cystic Fibrosis Walk/Run
- 10 A.M. Alumni Awards and Recognition
- 11:30 A.M. Buffet Lunch, Reunions begin, MOC Singers to entertain
- 12:00 NOON Alumni/50-inning Softball Game
- 1 P.M. Criminal Justice Seminar with Angel Funk '03
- Education Seminar with Fanette Hines Entzminger '76

Sunday, November 20

- 9 A.M. President's Reception
- 10 A.M. Memorial Service at Alumni Crosswalk
- 10:15 A.M. Alumni Worship Service led by Alumni
- 11:30 A.M. Sunday Buffet in the Lois K. Murphy Regional Center

Contact Dianne Riley at (919)658-7761, (800) 653-0854 or <driley@moc.edu> to make reservations.

VISITATION DAY

November 11, 2005

9 A.M. – 1 P.M.

Mount Olive College will host a Visitation Day on Friday, November 11 starting at 9 A.M. High School students and parents will have the opportunity to tour the campus, meet professors and students, attend admissions and financial aid workshops, audition for music and art scholarships, and get information about NCAA Division II athletics eligibility. Bring your completed application and we'll waive the \$20 application fee. The formal activities of the day will end after lunch unless the students are auditioning or meeting with coaches. Please feel free to contact Trista Locklear, Admissions Counselor, at (919) 658-7492, (800) 653-0854, or <tlocklear@moc.edu> with any questions or to register for the event.

FOUNDERS DAY

November 22, 2005

11 A.M.

Mount Olive College will celebrate its annual Founders Day on Tuesday, November 22, in Rodgers Chapel. During the Founders Day ceremony, employees are recognized for their many years of service. The Founders Leadership Award, the highest honor given to a student, will also be presented.

MOC CONCERT CHOIR

December 2, 2005

8 P.M.

The Mount Olive College Concert Choir will present its annual fall concert. The featured theme will be "An International Christmas." The concert is free and the public is invited to attend. For more information, or for those wishing to reserve group seats, contact Dr. Alan Armstrong at (919) 658-2502 or (800) 653-0854.

UNDERGRADUATE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AT MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE

The Undergraduate Alumni Association at Mount Olive College seeks to strengthen the relationships between past, present, and future students, to encourage and promote the college in everything that they do, and to foster the total development of the Mount Olive College Alumni Association.

The 2004 President was Rhonda Houston of Deep Run Church. Heather McPherson, of Beaverdam Church in Whiteville, now serves as the current UAA president, along with Devon Whichard, of Pleasant Grove Church in Pikeville, as vice president. Ashley Edwards, of St. Mary's Church in Kenly, is the secretary/treasurer. Sarah Finch is the president elect and will assume her duties as president next year. Members of the Association include: Josh Marquez, Ashley Walston of Piney Grove Church in Kenly, Hope McPherson of Beaverdam Church in Whiteville, Anna Russell, Victoria Taylor, and Hillary Williams of First Church in Goldsboro.

These students are responsible for promoting strong, positive relationships between the college and its students. They perform community service projects, thank donors and alumni, and help with the Annual Alumni Weekend activities.



Back Row (L-R) Sarah Finch, Heather McPherson, Josh Marquez, Devon Whichard; Middle Row (L-R) Ashley Edwards, Ashley Walston, Hope McPherson, Anna Russell; Front Row (L-R) Victoria Taylor, Hillary Williams

FREE WILL BAPTIST ORPHANAGE, MIDDLESEX, NC

by The Reverend James A. Evans

(This article is a compilation of articles that appeared on pp. 4-8 of *The Free Will Baptist*, Wednesday, September 8, 1943, Vol. 58, No. 35 and pp. 6-7 of Wednesday, May 30, 1945, Vol. 60, No. 22.)

The Free Will Baptist Orphanage of North Carolina had its inception several years prior to its opening.

In the years of 1910-1915, some of our leading Free Will Baptists became interested in providing a home for orphan boys and girls of our denomination and State. We had men and women from various Conferences and Associations which embraced the entire State, that saw this great need, so they began to advocate building of a home where we could provide care, training, and the necessary comforts of life for our children that would otherwise be supported by relatives or by county, state or federal aid.

In the year 1915, the interest became so great that the State Association voted unanimously to assume the responsibility of providing for those helpless boys and girls.

At the annual session in 1915, at Shady Grove Church, it was decided to elect a Board of Trustees to make the necessary arrangements to provide this home.



There was not at this time any money provided or any land donated for a site. The trustees elected were Elders J. F. Casey, W. R. Coats, M. C. Prescott, J. E. Davis, and Brother W. J. Braxton. This Board of Trustees soon began their work and on January 1, 1916, they accepted a gift

of 50 acres of land about two miles north from the town of Middlesex and \$3,200 in cash from Elder B. B. Deans and a few years later, purchased the adjoining tract of 111 acres making a total of 161 acres.

The first building was begun in the latter part of the year 1916. This was a three-story building with a basement. Progress was slow, since money had to be raised as the work went along, but the building was completed in the spring of 1920. This building had 31 large rooms and was used by the girls and called the Girls Dormitory. Brother L. B. Dunn, of Arapahoe, had been chosen to superintend the Home, but he resigned before the opening date and Elder Wetherington was chosen in his place.

(Continued on next page)

The first application was passed on February 11, 1920. The first children admitted were Nellie, Helen, Dorothy, and Carl Whitley on May 23, 1920. In just a few years it became necessary to erect another Dormitory for boys which was built in 1925 consisting of a two-story building containing 16 rooms, and known as the Boys Dormitory.

Beginning in the year 1920, our own school was maintained at the Home until the year 1941, growing from a one-teacher school at the beginning to a four teacher school. The school was discontinued when an arrangement was made for transportation of the children to Middlesex, where they enjoy the advantages and opportunities they did not have in our own school.

A modern dining room was erected in 1940, consisting of an adequate dining room, kitchen, storage rooms, office, and reception room. The Superintendent's home was an old building that was remodeled and was a very adequate nine room building in which he and his family lived.

In 1944, the Board purchased a modern 200-acre farm adjoining the original Orphanage farm at a cost of \$15,000, all of which was paid off by 1945. The addition of this farm made it possible to produce at home much of the food needed for the children. Money crops raised on the farm supplemented the income of the Home. There were several poultry houses, a stock barn, dairy barn, shop, wash house, and several hog houses. In 1943, there were 75 to 100 head of hogs and pigs that produced a great portion of the meat and lard, 25 to 35 head of cattle, both dairy and beef type that furnished sufficient milk and a great part of the beef used in the home. They also kept 1200 to 1500 chickens which furnished all the eggs and chickens needed in the home for eating purposes and had quite a number to sell. They operated the farm with a tractor and 4 work stock. They also had a feed mill which was a great asset.

The Home was opened with only a very small number of children, but soon began to increase in number and in the year 1926, cared for 84 chil-

dren and in 1930, reached 108, this being the greatest number in any one year. In the 1943 article, the Home reported the great improvement of the children after entering the home. The majority of these boys and girls came from very poor homes that were destitute of the needed care and proper environments of life and some had never known anything about a place they could call home. In a very short time after the entering the home, they noted great improvements in the life and disposition of the child. They found in many of these boys and girls valuable talents that otherwise would never have been developed.

As a means of contact between the Home and the churches, a concert class was sent out each year to travel over the state, rendering programs in churches and other public places. It was a great help in getting our people more interested in the Orphanage work, as well as being a financial asset to the Home. This plan was discontinued in the summer of 1944. A Field Representative was added to the staff to visit among the churches in place of the class.

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

CHRISTMAS FOR BALCHIK CHURCH BUILDING FUND

by Teresa Ball

I am writing this on Tuesday, October 4, 2005. Tomorrow will be just two weeks since I returned from a visit to Bulgaria. Today, during my lunch hour, I went to a local retail store. I noticed while I was standing in the check-out line that there was a large—a very large—secular Christmas display just inside the front door. As I looked at the display I noticed that there was not one Christian item in the whole display. Snowmen, reindeer, trees, lights, and

Santa Claus were all plentiful. Beside the Christmas display was a Halloween display. Pumpkins, witches, monsters, spiders, and skeletons were all included. Nowhere to be seen was an item regarding Thanksgiving or Jesus Christ.

As I viewed the displays I felt almost detached from the whole scene. I felt strange looking at the abundance of items for sale. Then it occurred to me that the combined square footage of those two displays

covered more square feet than the place of worship of the children and adults in Balchik, Bulgaria.

In that large retail store, more area was given for the display of secular items than has been dedicated to worship in Balchik. But the people of Balchik use every accessible inch they have. They make the best use of what they have available. What they desperately need is more space.

(Continued on next page)

At this time they cannot meet together as a church body. Four separate meetings are held to accommodate the people for worship. The small children meet first, then the older children. Later in the day, the women and then the men carry out their separate meetings. Often, there is not enough room for everyone to worship in their group and some return home without attending the worship service because there was no room for them.

Soon I will be asked the inevitable

question, "What do you want for Christmas?" Want? Do I really want or need for anything? Not really. I have shelter, clothes, food, healthcare, and a beautiful place to worship. All these things are lacking in Balchik. What do I want for Christmas this year? I desire a place of worship for the people of Balchik, a place where they can all come together and praise the Lord as one church body.

When asked this year, and every year until a House of Worship is realized in Balchik, what I want for

Christmas, my answer will be the same. My answer will be that I want acknowledgment, from the Original Free Will Baptist International Missions, noting a donation has been made to the Balchik Church Building Fund, as my gift. I challenge you to request the same gift from everyone who asks you, "What do you want for Christmas?" If we all give our Christmas presents to the Balchik Church Building Fund, the people of Balchik will soon have a place to worship Christ and there will be room for all.

CAPE FEAR WOMAN'S AUXILIARY CONVENTION

Saturday, October 1, 2005

at Haymount Church

Fayetteville, NC

Submitted by Caorlyn Jernigan

The Fall Convention's theme was "He is Our Rock" taken from the three year theme of our report book that was given to delegates at our 93rd Convention of Original Free Will Baptist on May 17-19, 2005, at Mount Olive College. Our Scripture verse was Deuteronomy 32:4: *He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.*

Registration began at 9 A.M. and at 9:30 A.M. our convention began with the hymn "Standing on the Rock." Mrs. Jane Parker welcomed everyone and Ms. Wanda Johnson prayed the opening prayer. Mrs. Mary Allen shared a devotion based on coffee beans. Mrs. Sue Massey, Haymount Auxiliary President, made announcements for the day. A response was given by Mrs. Ann Narron, Powhatan Auxiliary, thanking them for being our hosts for today.

The business session was started by appointing the Finance, Resolution, and Credentials Committees. Mrs. Betty Strickland, secretary, read the minutes of the past spring con-

vention and the called executive session. Delegates, visitors, pastors, and district and state officers were recognized. The roll call of churches gave a total of 60 people present. The Life Membership Award was given to Mrs. Carolyn Best of Bethel Church. Mrs. Mary Allen presented to her the pen after a biographical sketch of her was given. Her sons, John and Jimmy, and daughter, Carole, were present for the award presentation. She was surprised and honored.

Our Denominational Ministries were given the time to share their current information with our convention. The Rev. Fred Baker, Dr. Burkette Raper, Pam Sasser, Cindy Batten, and Linda Jackson gave reports on all our ministries. Our offering was taken and divided between the Children's Home and Mount Olive College.

After a short break, the reports were given and the business session closed. The hymn "Rock of Ages" was sung. Mrs. Carolyn Jernigan introduced Dr. Burkette Raper and Mrs. Rose Raper. Dr. Raper preached a

wonderful sermon on "He Is Our Rock." He related the rocks of Middlesex soil to the rocks of the Bible lands. He gave the disadvantages of rocks and the advantages of the rocks in our lives. He said Jesus and God are our Rock and we should have deep roots to sustain us during our rocky times of our lives. The closing hymn was "Beneath the Cross of Jesus" as requested by Dr. Raper. He read the words and told how important they were to him now and in his past experiences. The Rev. Dean Kennedy, pastor of Haymount church, closed the Convention with prayer and blessing.

The Spring Convention will be Saturday, April 1, 2006, at the First Church in Goldsboro, NC. All Cape Fear churches are urged to send in their nominees for the Dola Dudley Award to be presented in the spring. Life Membership Awards are given in the fall. Send some names in to Jane Parker, President of Cape Fear Auxiliary District.

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY SUNDAY AT NORTHEAST

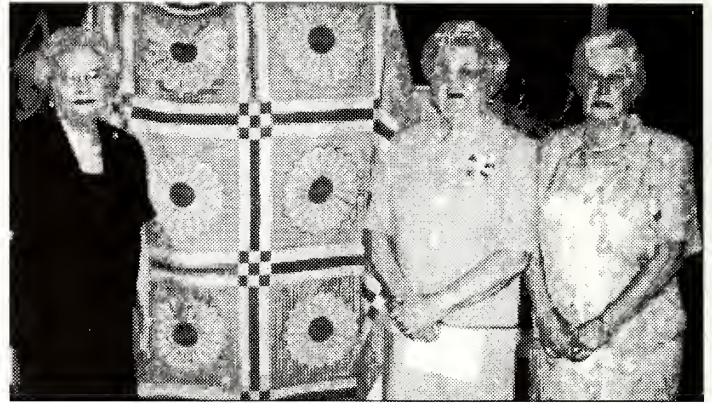
Woman's Auxiliary Sunday was held at Northeast Church of Mount Olive on August 28. Members filled the choir to overflowing and provided the organist, ushers, and the speaker for the day. Each member was recognized by wearing ribbons in the Auxiliary colors of blue and silver. An arrangement of blue and silver graced the communion table.

The morning anthem, "Our Best," sung by the choir, illustrated both the Auxiliary purpose and the theme for 2005 of working in service for God to our fellowman.

The Woman's Auxiliary of Northeast was founded in the mid-1930s at which time it was called the Ladies Aid Society. On display in the sanctuary was a part of our heritage, a quilt made by early members during the 1940s. Mrs. Jean Holmes, owner of the quilt, related the history of this quilt. She told of the need for money and then gave the names of ladies in the church who pieced each square. She then embroidered her own name in the center of her square and was paid 10 cents each by others to also have their names embroidered in the squares. Most of these quilters are now deceased but are not forgotten. This quilt was auctioned off and purchased by Mr. John Westbrook, long-time member of Northeast and father of Mrs. Holmes.

Speaker for the day was Mrs. Lorraine Sutton, a past president of the Auxiliary. She began her message with the Auxiliary Watchword: "I can do all things through Christ." She then told the story of birds being saved from death at the hands of a little boy by a kindly gentleman who paid for them and then gave them their freedom. She used this as an illustration of how Jesus does the same for us.

On display was the emblem of the Woman's Auxiliary which she used to explain its three-fold purpose of missions, devotion, and service. Mission work comes as a



Left to Right: Lorraine Sutton, Jean Holmes, and Judy Pate.

result of believers following Jesus' command to teach and witness throughout the world. She noted it's not necessary to leave one's home to do mission work but one can effectively work and should do so in the local community. She also cautioned us to be aware of attempts being made to remove any mention of Christianity from the public forum.

Devotion is a result of a personal relationship with God and she said a portion of each day should be devoted to that relationship.

In turn, the believer is to acknowledge His grace and blessings in service to Him and to our fellowman without expectation for monetary reward. She gave examples of how the Auxiliary and various groups in the church are of service to others, inside and outside the church and denomination, in both small and large ways.

The service was closed by praying the Auxiliary benediction. After the service, members of the Auxiliary and their families gathered for lunch at Mount Olive College.

EASTERN DISTRICT WOMAN'S AUXILIARY MEETING

Submitted by JoAnn Parrish, President and Happy Taylor, Secretary

The Eastern District Woman's Auxiliary Convention met on Saturday, September 17, 2005, at the Rock of Zion Church in Grantsboro, NC. Our Convention theme was "In God's Hands." The Scripture was taken from 2 Samuel 16:12: "For it may be that the LORD will look on my affliction," and that the LORD will repay me with good..." (NKJV).

President, JoAnn Parrish, presided. The Rev. Tim Heath offered a prayer for the success of the Convention. Carol Prescott of the host church served as music director.

A special presentation was made to Happy Taylor in recognition of her 40 years of service to the Woman's Auxiliary. Happy has served the Auxiliary on the local, district, and state levels. Jean Dixon sang a song about "life is easy" and dedicated it to Happy.

The business session was held and the following new officers were elected and installed by Lottie Caroon, nominating committee chairman:

President
Vice-President
Recording Secretary
Field Secretary
Treasurer
Assistant Treasurer
Program Prayer Chairman
Missions Chairman
Study Course Chairman
Youth Co-Chairmen

Benevolence Chairman
Camp Vandemere Representative

Wanda Costner
Gail Heath
Vickie Wade
Eleanor Baker
Velma Morris
Lois Wetherington
Audrey Quinn
Linda Jenkins
JoAnn Parrish
Grace Jones
Jennifer Jones
Amy Scott
Courtney Taylor

Reports were given from the appointed committees and denominational ministries reported on their areas.

(Continued on next page)

Our convention speaker was the Rev. Michael Bryan, pastor of Rock of Zion Church. His text was from Esther 4:10. He spoke about the year of preparation the women had to go through before they could see the King. We obey God even though we can't see Him, and we trust Him on faith. He shared that God had made each of us special with an individual plan. Psalm 139:14 tells us we are fearfully and wonderfully made by God. God has a purpose for our lives. He emphasized that godly women are needed in our churches. Young people need godly role models in their Sunday School teachers and leaders. He used the analogy of our being like a candle—set on fire, consumed, and burnt out to give off light to those around us. The message concluded with a reminder that God is in control.

Mr. Tim Heath offered the Harvest Connection as a point of prayer concern for each of us. Groups will be leaving every Monday through October to go to Sandersville, Mississippi, to work with Hurricane Katrina victims.

There were 27 out of 72 auxiliaries in the Eastern District reporting or represented at this convention. I encourage each auxiliary to participate. We meet on a Saturday

so as not to interfere with work schedules. The meetings are very informative and allow your auxiliary to have an input into decisions made for the entire district. We begin our registration at 9:30 A.M. and the meeting begins at 10 A.M. The programs are usually concluded by 12:30 P.M. or earlier. Following the meeting, lunch is served by the host church. The cost of the meal is a donation to the designated ministry or ministries. If you would like more information, please call Vickie Wade at (252) 522-5733 or e-mail <vwade@wave-net.net>.

We would like to recognize and thank the following auxiliaries for their participation and support of this convention. Arapahoe, Bethel, Beulaville First, Cabin, Core Creek, Core Point Chapel, Daly's Chapel (Seven Springs), Deep Run, Dublin Grove, Folkstone, Friendship (Trenton), Juniper Chapel, Kinston First, Macedonia, May's Chapel, Mt. Zion (Beulaville), Pearsall Chapel, Rock of Zion, Russell Creek, Saint's Delight, Sandy Plain, Smith's New Home, Spring Hope, Wardens Grove, Warsaw First, Westside, and Wintergreen.

The meeting was concluded and followed by a wonderful time of fellowship and lunch in the Fellowship Hall.

PEOPLE & EVENTS

HAYMOUNT CHURCH NEWS

by Belinda Medlin



From left to right: James Osborne, Erin Lockamy and Sheena Reeves. In the month of September we have had three people give their lives to the Lord and a total of 12 people so far this year.



Youth Luau fundraiser to help raise money for building fund.

POWHATAN CHURCH NEWS

Submitted by Rita Jones

Powhatan held fall revival with the Rev. Dennis Pollock as the guest speaker from September 11–15. Each evening had special music and a special message; and on Thursday, refreshments were enjoyed following services. Homecoming was celebrated on September 18 and the Rev. Jerry Stephenson returned as the guest speaker. A memorial service was held honoring those who had passed away in the last year (Audrey Dupree, Ruby Jean Johnson, and Margaret Holleman) with a special video presentation of many loved ones who have gone on to their final home.

Thank you to all who came out and helped make the barbecue chicken fundraiser a success in September. Proceeds funded the outdoor shelter beside the fellowship hall built for the bus to park under. It came in good as shade for the cooks that day, as well! Work continues on the new volleyball court and in other areas.

Powhatan was one of 11 churches in attendance at the Cape Fear District Study Course breakfast at Shady Grove with Rena Hill on Saturday, September 24. Evangelism was the theme and the speaker shared how scars can be used as witnessing tools. She read how Jesus used his physical scars to convince Thomas of his true identity. Sometimes, emotional scars can be more difficult to deal with than physical scars. She said her body will eventually heal, but she will always miss the friend she lost in the automobile accident of May, 2004. She closed with a song from her new solo CD and a prayer.

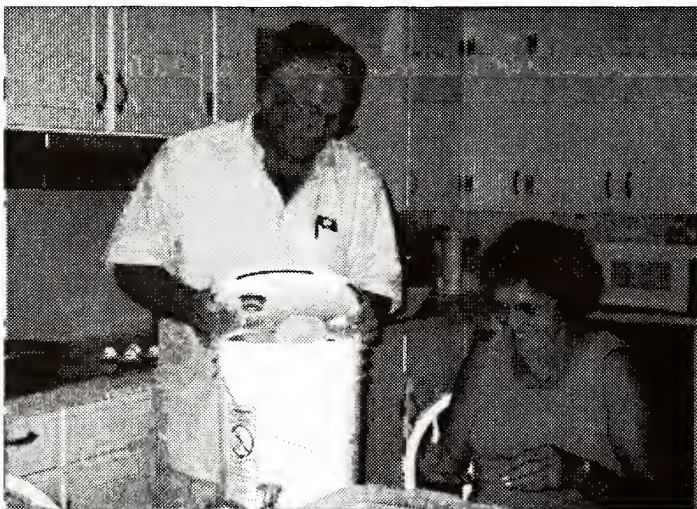
DEEP RUN CHURCH NEWS

Submitted by JoEllen Sloan



Jo Ellen Sloan getting the kits ready to be delivered.

In the spring of this year, Delana Barwick, president of the Ladies' Auxiliary for the Deep Run Church asked the Mission Chairman, Syl Gray, to work on getting the church involved in making Kids Kare Boxes and Disaster Relief Kits. A committee was formed to get it organized. The committee started receiving donations right away for the kits. The week before Hurricane Katrina hit, the committee, which was made up of Syl Gray, Bill Gray, and Jo Ellen Sloan finished 9 disaster kits and had them ready for the harvest connection. Little did anyone know what was about to happen with Hurricane Katrina. But, we soon found out. On Friday of that week, the Deep Run Church decided to become a collection site for the Harvest Connection. Friday was starting the Labor Day weekend. Who knew the donations would come in such huge amounts? For two weekends, the church has received tremendous amounts of donations that are on the way to Hurricane Katrina victims. Since then, the church has decided to become active in the Harvest Connection. Jo Ellen Sloan has been named the Disaster Relief coordinator for the church. The church will continue to make Disaster Relief Kits and be a permanent collection site for the Harvest Connection.



Bill and Syl Gray are busy making Disaster Relief Kits.



Pictured from left to right: the Rev. Adrian Grubbs, Nettie Jean Hill, Elwood Hill, Jo Ellen Sloan, and Mary Dudley. The group loaded up the Harvest Connection trailer with goods donated from Deep Run Church.

Defining Religious Experiences of Original Free Will Baptists

THREE PIECES OF PAPER

Editor's Note: Dr. Pepper Worthington has recorded some of the defining experiences of Original Free Will Baptists, both men and women, as a column for *The Free Will Baptist* as a record that can be included in the Original Free Will Baptist Historical Collection at Mount Olive College.

"I remember a special event when I was twelve, but I did not recognize the importance of that early religious experience until I was in my twenties. Recognizing that faith is a process is an important thing," declared the Rev. Tim Heath.

"I remember a revival at Faith Original Free Will Baptist Church in Leland, North Carolina. It was a mission church my mom and dad had started. James Howard led the revival and he stayed at my house. The last night of the revival as he was getting ready to leave, he walked out of the bedroom with paper in his hand. He put the three pieces of paper in my hand and said to me, 'Tim, you may need these one day.' Those three pieces of paper had three simple sermon outlines. I was twelve. I wasn't interested in sermon outlines. I didn't recognize the importance of those three pieces of paper, but my mom did," Tim explained.

"When I was eighteen, I realized God wanted me to preach. I ran across the three pieces of paper James Howard had given me. Mom had left behind those three sermon outlines and it was then I recognized the process of faith. At twelve the plan God had for me may have been missed by me. I didn't see it. God had His hand in my life at twelve, but I didn't see it. God had something in mind for me way back then. In my twenties I realized God wanted to use me to speak for Him. Faith is a process, but there is a point, a defining religious experience where we may recognize that process," Tim acknowledged.



The Rev. Tim Heath is pastor of Saint's Delight Church in the Eastern Conference.

"God does work in mysterious ways," added Tim. "When I accepted the call, I graduated from high school. I lost interest in college until the Eastern Conference told me I had to go to college. Pastor Ronald Savage took me to Mount Olive College. I sat down with Burkette Raper. It was July 1981. After that session with Dr. Raper, I received a letter of acceptance from the College. I was able to get Pell grant money and the people of Trinity Original Free Will Baptist helped me. Later, I went to Folkstone Original Free Will Baptist at Holly Ridge and I went to Ronnie Parker and the church accepted my membership. Again, the process of faith was at work. The moment when I recognized the process of God working in my life is a defining religious experience. I married my wife Gail at Folkstone. But I tell you, I've been moved around in

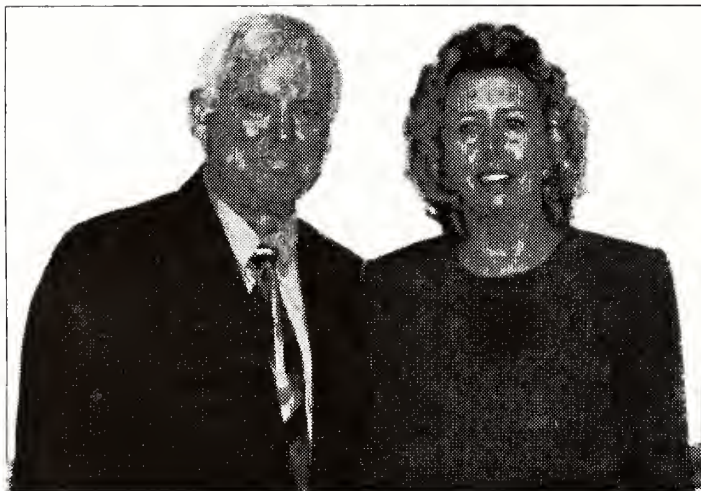
churches. My mom and dad helped start mission churches all their life—the Warsaw Church, Wilmington First Church, and others. I've seen the trials of hearts poured into a church and I've seen a church torn apart. But we have to let the hurt go and not take it personally. The church isn't perfect nor am I. I am learning that some of the problems churches face are inherent in people's hearts just as my own. Faith is a process of growth. If the Lord puts me in a place to pastor people, there will be a way to minister to the people, or the Lord will tell you it's time to move on. The Lord doesn't close one door without another door opening," stated Tim.

"I'm at Saint's Delight now, and I think if we could equate the process of faith to birth as a Christian, we might see ourselves grow past the milk of the Word into the meat of the Word. Milk is the food for us as babes. Meat is the food for adults. Each day is a process in which we are growing past the milk stage to the meat stage," Tim said.

"Some look at Scripture as a buffet where you see a lot of items and you pick and choose what you want. But in essence Scripture is not a buffet. The Bible is a menu God has given to us and we are not to pick and choose but to draw upon all of it in that light of faith as we go through the process of growing, of maturing, of becoming more Christ-like. Every day you get up is an opportunity to learn something. Every day is an opportunity to become more dependent upon God," Tim revealed.

PASTOR APPRECIATION DAY

Submitted by Hilda Starling



Sunday, September 25, 2005, was a special day for the congregation of Branch Chapel Church, Selma, North Carolina. On this day, our pastor, the Rev. Terry Dennis and his wife, Ann, were honored for their dedication to God and to our church.

The service opened with Precious In His Sight Bells Choir playing "Amazing Grace." For the special music, Ms. Melissa Creech sang "He Has Been Faithful" and thanked Pastor Terry for his faithfulness to God and to our church family.

Pastor Terry delivered a most inspiring message to all parents. Following the message he had a special baby dedication service.

As he started to close the service, Sister Lois Jones asked him to be seated. Brothers Morgan Langston and Gene Honeycutt spoke words of appreciation to Pastor Terry and thanked him for the inspiration and blessing he had been to each of them. Sister Faye Parker then shared the following tribute she had written to Pastor Terry and Sister Ann.

Terry and Ann, what can we say?
It was truly a blest day when you came our way.
You moved into a house on Glendale Road,
Ann started cleaning and you grabbed
your rake and hoe.
A little independent you won't ask for help,
If you would, it would save you from blisters and welts.
Terry, you are truly a man who loves to dig in the soil,
With a heart of gold you would
give away all that you toil.
At an early age God was tugging at your heart,
So there were things in your life
that you would have to part.
At age 17 God called you to preach and
quickly you learned some people
were really hard to reach.

At age 19 you pastored your first church.
It was quick to see some people are nice,
while others are jerks.
As time went by God moved you around.
You probably never had a clue you would
one day be North Carolina bound.
You have a friendly smile that goes a long way,
Especially when a person has had a very bad day.
You listen to people and show them you care,
Even when some are like lambs and others like bears.
We sometimes forget Pastors are human too,
They are not mechanical,
They are people just like me and you.
They get headaches, sore throats, aches and pain.
And some of the people you have to deal
with can be a terrible strain.
You are a professional in a special kind of way,
With a gift to make something good out of every day.
Never having enough time for family or friends,
A good, kind and caring Pastor's Day
seems to never end.
Seeing the shut-ins and visiting the sick, too,
You are truly a busy man from anyone's point of view.
When choosing a Pastor we picked one
that was God sent, kind, and caring,
A person that has devoted much of his
own life to sharing.
With a heart of gold and nerves of steel,
You are truly dedicated to doing God's will.
So Terry and Ann, we can truly say, we
the people of Branch Chapel love you and
thank God each day because
He saw fit to send you our way.

Brother Herman Phillips, chairman of the deacons, then invited everyone to the Fellowship Hall to enjoy a meal and fellowship with Pastor Terry and Ann and their children who were in the service.

Pastor Terry humbly expressed his gratitude to the congregation for the opportunity to serve as our pastor. The congregation gave him a standing ovation, expressing their respect, admiration, and love for this dear man of God and his leadership.

In the evening service, Pastor Terry was honored by Precious In His Sight Choir singing a special song to him and they presented him with a poster of Love and Appreciation for his kindness to all the children.

Pastor Terry thanked the congregation for the many gifts received during the fellowship lunch.

We thank our Lord for sending us this dear, dedicated family to us and we look forward to continuing our fellowship for years to come.

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151st Annual Session of the Cape Fear Conference

Saturday, November 19, 2005
Blended Fellowship FWB Mission Church

Registration: 8:30 A.M.

Special Dedication Service for the
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Contact Information: <jessec@intrstar.net> or (910) 567-6419

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Man judges from a partial view.
None ever yet his brother knew;
The eternal Eye that sees the whole
May better read the darkened soul,
And find, to outward sense denied,
The flower upon its inmost side!

—John Greenleaf Whittier: The Pressed Gentian



We Still Believe

Mount Olive College Alumni Weekend

November 18-20, 2005

Friday

Business Breakfast
Alumni Golf Tournament
Science Luncheon
Sigma Tau Delta (English) Reunion
Join students/faculty for dinner
Concert Choir (National Anthem)
40th Annual Pickle Classic
Pizza Party



Saturday

CF Walk
Jan Brewer Memorial CF Walk
Alumni Awards
Election of new alumni officers
Recognition-50th Class and 25th Class
Reunions-'55, '65, '75, '80, '85, '95, '00, '05
Bookstore Open
MOC Singers entertaining at lunch
50-inning Softball Game
Criminal Justice Seminar
Education/Teacher Seminar

Financial Planning Seminar
Art Exhibit
Classes for Children
Lifelong Learning Opportunities for Alumni
Children's Inflatable Games
Pig Pick'n
Dail House alum's reunion
Pickle Classic Championship
2005 Queen and King-Pickle Classic Court
Sammy O'Banion and Mardi Gras
Childcare available (if registered)

Sunday

Breakfast with Dr. and Mrs. Byrd
Memorial Service
Alumni Worship Service
Sunday Buffet



For more information on any of the above events and activities, contact
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- Fax to (252) 746-9248, Attn: Editor,
- Hand deliver, or
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The background of the cover features a bright, multi-pointed starburst of light in the upper left quadrant, casting a glow over a landscape of rolling hills. The hills are depicted in shades of yellow and brown, suggesting a dry or autumnal terrain. The sky is a deep purple, speckled with small white stars.

THE FREE WILL BAPTIST

December 2005

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THE ORIGINAL FREE WILL BAPTIST MONTHLY PLANNER



December 2005

FOREIGN MISSIONS MONTH

Meeting dates and locations are subject to change. You are encouraged to call in advance to confirm meeting schedules.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Cragmont Christmas	2 MOC Concert Choir Fall Concert, 7:30 P.M., First Baptist Church, Mount Olive Honors Day at MOC, 10 A.M.—1 P.M. Cragmont Christmas	3 Cragmont Christmas
4 Cragmont Christmas	5	6	7 Layman's League Executive Board Meeting, VFW Building, Snow Hill, 7 P.M. Christmas Buffet at MOC, 6 P.M.	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 WINTER BEGINS	22	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE
25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26	27	28	29	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE

COMING SOON:

Visitation Day at Mount Olive College—January 11
Spiritual Life Retreat for the Minister's Wife—January 26–29
Mount Olive College FWB Church Night —January 28

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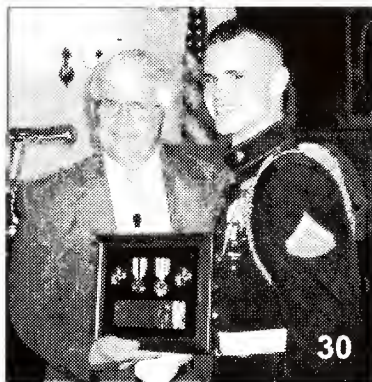
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**POWER
VERSE**

For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord
(Luke 2:11).

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE

What does it mean to be a Christian? In today's world of "watered down" everything, it can be hard to tell. Being a Christian is not an "outfit" you wear on Sunday morning to go to church and take back off when you return home (to be normal again). The Christian life is a personal relationship with your Lord and Savior—Jesus. Pay attention for a moment. I'm talking about a "Real"ationship. What sort of a relationship can you have with Jesus if you pay attention to Him for only a couple of hours on Sunday mornings? It's simple—you either are or you're not a Christian. There cannot be a religious time and a secular time in the life of a Christian; no separation can exist here (see Revelation 3:15-16). Christianity is a 24/7/365 kind of thing. In other words, Christ is a part of our lives 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, all year long—all the time! When this happens, the world will be a better place. Amen.

by Darren E. Davenport, Editor

CHRISTMASES OF THE PAST

by C. H. Overman, Editor Emeritus, Guest Writer

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6).

Christmases of the past, as I recall them, were more focused on the real message of Christmas. Life was slower paced a few decades ago. Christmas shopping was not as complicated and involved simply because money was limited. Our family always had some kind of Christmas tree with a few lights placed upon it, along with a few decorations. It was usually a small pine or cedar which was found, after much searching, in the woods that surrounded our farm. Gifts were limited and not very costly. A cap pistol and holster, along with some fruit and nuts, highlighted one Christmas morning when I was about ten years old. My sisters were made happy with dolls. Simply put, it did not require much to please and delight us. I don't remember us drawing names until we were all married with our own families. Our mother's Christmas dinner was something to behold and enjoy—the homemade fruitcake, the turkey with all the trimmings, the vegetables, congealed salads, and one of Mother's specialties—ambrosia, a mixture of fruits, grated coconut, and other delicious stuff. I usually spent the afternoon playing with a friend who lived nearby.

Christmas at our church was something special. Sometimes the tree was a tall holly which the men had taken from the top of a large holly tree. By the time Christmas was over, it would become dry and quite prickly as the leaves lost their luster. Some of the decorations were handmade by the Sunday School classes. Gifts were given to all the children, along with a small bag of fruits and other Christmas goodies. The old standby Christmas carols still ring in our ears. And, of course, there was the usual skit depicting the manger scene—Mary and Joseph, the wisemen, and the shepherds.

In those days, not so long ago, Christmas was also celebrated in our schools, without question. This day and time is different, for we read of more and more school districts that are disallowing any reference to religious holidays, including Christmas, all in the name of separation of church and state. No Christmas carols are allowed. The season is now more commonly referred to as holidays, which may not be so out of line if we think of them as "holy days."

For the believer there will always be a Christmas, for it is the body of Christ—the church—that faces the challenge of letting the world know that the Savior was born into this world and He desires to live and reign in each heart.

Reflections

Pondering the Meaning of Christmas

by W. Burkette Raper

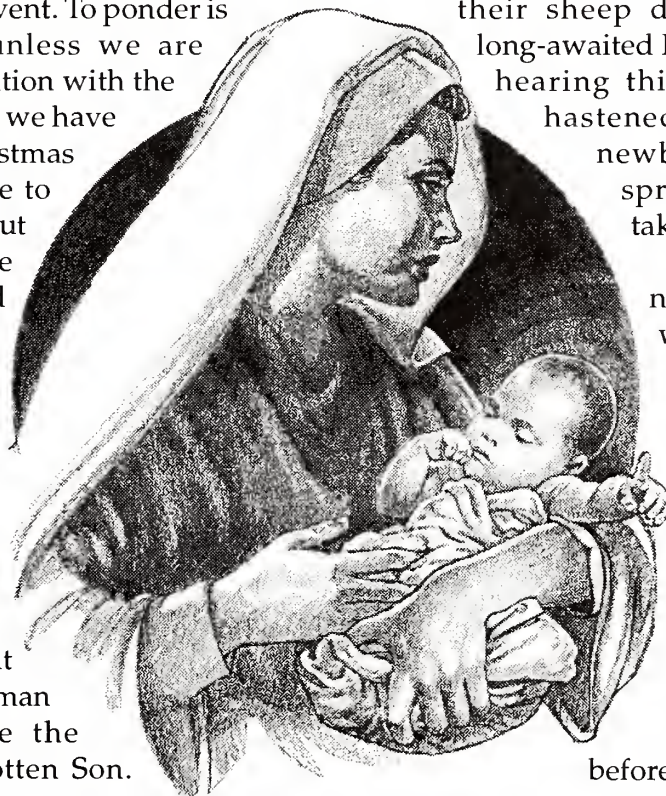
But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.
(Luke 2:19 NIV)

Each of us has memories of Christmas: memories of Santa Claus when we were children; memories when we were no longer children but parents of excited children; memories of Christmas experiences with family and friends; and joyful memories which we have cherished across the years. But for some of us, there are also sad and painful memories when we were disappointed, hurt, or had memories of a lonely Christmas when someone we loved was no longer with us.

Christmas is indeed a time for our most tender memories—memories which we continue to ponder in our hearts, whether joyful or painful. To ponder the meaning of Christmas is to share the experience of Mary, the mother of Jesus, whose birth is the fountainhead of this sacred event. To ponder is to search for meaning; unless we are vigilant, however, preoccupation with the “things” and activities which we have come to associate with Christmas will leave us little or no time to search out its true meaning. But if the demands on our time leave us no time to think and ponder, let us consider the circumstances which confronted Mary during that first Christmas.

Mary and the First Christmas

First, Mary had been chosen by God to be at the center of the most important event in the history of the human race—she was to become the mother of God’s only begotten Son.



Ponder that meaning—to be the mother of the Son of God, who was being incarnated in human flesh.

Second, consider the stark realities of her situation. During her late pregnancy, the government of the land where she lived required her to travel by foot or beast from her home in Galilee to Bethlehem, a distance of approximately seventy-five miles. Also, consider that on this journey, the time for the birth of her child came. She had no medical attendants and no accommodations, except an animal shelter. Now, compare this experience with the modern American mother who spends weeks, even months, preparing a nursery with an abundant assortment of clothes and supplies.

Out in the countryside, an angel announced to some shepherds, who were keeping watch over their sheep during the night, that the long-awaited Messiah had been born. Upon hearing this message, the shepherds hastened to Bethlehem to see the newborn Child, and then they spread the news of what had taken place.

No doubt the whole community was soon buzzing with wonder and awe, but Luke records that Mary quietly pondered all these things in her heart. In so doing, she was looking beyond the rush of events and searching out the meaning of what God had caused to happen in her life.

Pondering The Meaning of Christmas In Our Lives

Three centuries passed before the church began to publicly

celebrate the Birth of Jesus, whereas in our time, Christmas has become the major season of the year. It is a celebration, however, that has taken many forms and accumulated superfluous practices, many of which are in no way related to its origin. With the ever increasing secularization of our society, Christmas is becoming more of a secular holiday than a Christian holy day. Surely, this warped celebration of the birth of our Lord is a deep concern of Christians, but how should we respond?

Simply bemoaning the commercial and entertainment features our culture has attached to Christmas is not going to vitalize its Christian meaning. Our most effective response is to join with Mary in finding time to search out the meaning of the Birth of Jesus in our lives.

One of the major problems of our contemporary life-style is that we are often more driven by activities than by meaning and purpose, especially during the Christmas season. Our challenge is to distinguish between those activities which are necessary and those which do not advance the purpose for which God has given us life. Notwithstanding that I am now retired and no longer ensnared by the fast track, let me share some thoughts on how we can experience the Christian meaning of Christmas.

Practicing The Christian Meaning of Christmas

The beginning point is to decide to take a portion of the time God gives us to reflect on why we observe Christmas. Let us try taking one hour—uninterrupted—of the 178 hours God gives us during Christmas week to read the Nativity accounts (Luke 1:26–2:40 and Matthew 1:18–2:23) and then ask ourselves: “What was Mary pondering as she reflected over this extraordinary experience in her life?” For Mary, the Birth of Jesus changed the whole course of her life, and we might ponder what difference His coming has made in our lives. What difference has Jesus made in the priorities by which we live? In the use we make of the time God has given us? In the use of the financial resources He has entrusted to us? Has the coming of Jesus caused us to ponder God’s purpose for our life?

Another way we can add Christian meaning to our observance of Christmas is through our practice of gift giving. Christmas brings out the best in us, and presenting gifts to those we love warms our hearts. Through the concept of Santa Claus, children can be taught that there is something good in a world that at

times seems cold or even cruel. Indeed, the practice of giving gifts at Christmas is rooted in the legend of Saint Nicholas, from whom the name of Santa Claus is derived. Nicholas was a bishop in the fourth century whose legacy was being a patron of children.

For most, if not for all of us, our most treasured memories of Christmas as children include the gifts we received, especially at the tree on Christmas morning. The joy and meaning of giving gifts at Christmas, however, does not have to be an extravaganza which leaves us heavily in debt. Moreover, if giving is to have a Christian quality it should be charitable and include those who are in need. Let us show special love to our children, family, and friends at Christmas, but let us also practice the Christian meaning of giving by giving to those who are unable to give to us.

One of my most treasured memories is a visit with a staff member who was at the Free Will Baptist Children’s Home during my high school days. She befriended me in many ways, including encouraging me as I made plans to attend college. Fifty years passed without my seeing her, and I felt a deep need to thank her for the contribution she had made to my life. Through a long process of inquiry I was able to locate her, and during the visit my wife and I made to her home, we learned that she and her husband had been blessed with twin daughters, who were their only children. Shortly before Christmas, however, when the girls were still under school age, they were killed in an accident.

Their death was a tragedy which threatened not only the joy of Christmas but also whether she and her husband could put their lives back together. They devised a plan that not only helped them get through Christmas but also to experience healing. They bought a supply of fruit, toys, and clothing and on Christmas Day visited thirty homes where there were children who otherwise would not have received presents. It was a Christmas they considered to be the most meaningful of their lives. In this act of Christian love, they experienced one of the great truths taught by Him whose birthday we celebrate at Christmas: “...It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35). ▲

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The Reverend Mrs. Carlee Stallard— A Woman of Prayer

by Marci R. Rollins-Smart

The House of Prayer is certainly an appropriate name for the church that the Rev. Mrs. Carlee Stallard pastors, for certainly she is a woman filled with the Holy Spirit and dedicated to a life of prayer.

Born in Norton, Wise County, Virginia, on November 20, 1927, Carlee was born and raised a Free Will Baptist. Her father, the Rev. Jessie R. Smith, was an evangelist and preached at several different FWB Churches while Carlee was growing up. However, it was not under his preaching that Carlee first felt the Lord tugging at her heart. Instead, it was sitting on a pew in a Methodist church listening to Dan Grimm. Carlee was in the sixth or seventh grade and she recalls school being dismissed so the children could go hear Mr. Grimm preach. Describing herself as a timid child, she says she had no intention of going forward in front of the crowd there that day. However, she felt the Lord dealing with her and she went forward, shaking and crying as she went. As moving of an experience as this was though, Carlee states she was not truly converted until December 28, 1948 at the age of twenty-one.

Between the time of the experience at the Methodist church and her yielding her life to Christ, Carlee always felt like she needed to be at the altar when in church. She says she was living a good, moral life, and even held positions in the church such as that of Sunday School teacher, but there was still the need to commit to living for Jesus and get her life right with Him.

On December 14, 1944, Carlee married Lee H. Stallard, who had



*The Rev. Mrs. Carlee Stallard
of the Piedmont Conference.*

recently returned home from overseas. Two years later they had their first child, Patty, and two years after that Carlee gave birth to their second child, Daryl. It was as she lay giving birth to Daryl on October 31, 1948, that Carlee told God she would live for the Lord and raise her children right, if she could just live through the birth. Carlee later had two other children: Donald, born on May 21, 1951, and Carol, born on July 31, 1956.

When Daryl was six weeks old, Carlee sent for her mother-in-law. She had been reading in Revelation and when her mother-in-law left, Carlee got on her knees and asked the Lord to save her. However, it was not easy for Carlee to accept God's forgiveness of her sins. On the morning of December 28, 1948, Carlee went to her mother's house (Mrs. Bannie Farmer Smith), and the conversation turned to talking about God. Carlee was so troubled, that she asked her ten-year-old sister to go get a lady in the community to come and pray with her. As Carlee started praying, she began praying to God not only for herself,

but for her parents, also. Then she heard an audible voice, which she believes to have been the voice of an angel or Jesus, say to her, "Pray for yourself and get yourself right and then pray for them."

The change that occurred in her life at that point was so apparent that her brother-in-law said he could see a change in her. Two or three years went by and Carlee kept her promise to the Lord. She and her children went to church every time she possibly could go. She became very involved in cottage prayer meetings on Mondays, which she credits as being the most helpful in encouraging her growth in the Lord.

Carlee claims Jeremiah 22:21 as her "defining" Scripture passage: "I spake unto thee in thy prosperity; but thou saidest, I will not hear. This hath been thy manner from thy youth, that thou obeyedst not my voice." Indeed, she spent months in prayer before she really started listening to God and accepting forgiveness for her sins; and she spent more time than that running from God's calling on her life.

One evening Carlee's church was supposed to have two guest ministers. Carlee was there preparing the cookstove, when the Lord told her the two ministers were not going to be there and she was going to have to preach. Although she does not remember anything she said, she indeed ended up preaching that night.

Carlee had many people to affirm her calling into the ministry even before she formally accepted the call herself. She recalls one instance in which she was singing at a

(Continued on next page)

church in Thomasville and a man came up to her and told her she had missed her calling and should have been preaching instead of singing. Her oldest son even made the comment that she preached more than ordained ministers. Before she finally accepted the call to the ministry, she was at the point of not wanting to go to church because she always felt she had to testify in order to receive a blessing.

In 1969, Carlee, her husband, and another person were singing in worship at the House of Prayer Church in Kernersville, an OFWB church started by her brother, the Rev. Thomas Smith. That day, she told the congregation of her calling. She was encouraged and embraced by her church family and they sent a letter to the Piedmont Conference asking that Carlee be approved for licensing.

Before Carlee met with the ordaining council, however, the congregation at House of Prayer asked her to be their pastor. Carlee's brother had resigned his position at the church about a year prior, and the position had been filled only temporarily. Although Carlee was not yet ordained, the congregation begged her to be their pastor. Carlee

accepted the position and began serving the church immediately. Carlee was approved for ordination by the ordaining council and was ordained in a special service at the House of Prayer on September 4, 1970.

Since Carlee's ordination, she has served the denomination in many capacities. She is currently treasurer for the Piedmont Conference, a position she has held for twenty-five years. She has also served for twenty years on the Home Mission Board. Other positions include positions in the Piedmont Conference Woman's Auxiliary, chair of the nominating committee for the state convention, one term on the Free Will Baptist Press board, and completing Hazel Brown's term on the Children's Home board.

David Charles Hansley, executive director of Home Missions and Evangelism, describes Carlee as "committed, loyal, and dedicated." He states that she has been a spiritual asset during her time of service on the Home Missions Board and that "her leadership has been very appreciated by the people of the Piedmont Conference."

When asked to name the highlights of her ministry, Carlee says

seeing her husband and children come to the Lord. (Her husband did not accept Christ until seventeen years after Carlee did.) She also named being able to baptize her oldest daughter and granddaughter at the same service and performing the wedding for her oldest granddaughter. In addition to these family events, Carlee claims that seeing how the Lord can save and heal so many people has been a high point in her ministry. One recent example is her being able to help lead the chief of police of Kernersville to the Lord on December 4, 2004.

At the age of 78, Carlee has no intentions of retiring now. She regrets not having listened to God earlier in her life and wonders how the Lord might have used her if she had been less stubborn. She stated, "I am what I am only by the grace of God. If there is any praise or any glory it belongs to the Lord." Her desire now is to do even more than she has for God in the years she has left. And you can rest assured that Carlee will not do anything without going to the Lord in prayer first—for the House of Prayer OFWB Church is led by a true woman of prayer. ▲

WHEN ID THIEVES GO PHISHING, DON'T TAKE THE BAIT

by North Carolina Attorney General Roy Cooper

You use it every day, perhaps without realizing its value, but thieves want to steal it from you. They want to take one of your most valuable possessions, your good name, and use it to commit crimes.

Identity thieves steal personal information such as your name, Social Security number, bank account or credit card number, and use the information to pretend to be you. These criminals get the information

they need through low-tech ways, such as rifling through your garbage or stealing your mail, and through high-tech ways, such as intercepting information you share on the Internet.

Some identify thieves troll for your personal information using a tactic known as "phishing," where con artists send phony e-mails that claim to come from legitimate companies. The e-mails are designed to

trick you into giving up your information so the thieves can run up huge debts in your name.

One of the latest phishing scams to strike North Carolina involves e-mails that purportedly come from Fleet Bank. The e-mails claim that the bank needs information from you to verify your credit card account due to a glitch. In reality, these identity thieves are trying to

(Continued on next page)

steal your information so they can spend your money and threaten your credit.

Previously reported phishing scams used counterfeit e-mails that pretended to be from Internet auction site eBay, online payment service PayPal, retail store Best Buy, Internet service provider Earthlink, and banks Wells Fargo, Citibank, and Chase. These phony e-mails often include messages such as, "We regret to inform you that we were unable to charge your card" and then ask you to resubmit your credit card information. Or they may ask that you visit a website to verify some piece of information about you, such as your e-mail address, by providing your debit card number and PIN.

Phishing e-mails go to great lengths to try to fool consumers. These e-mails often include logos that look highly similar to those used by the legitimate company they're masquerading as. The message may already include a lot of

your personal information, such as your name, address and even credit card number, and seem to be just asking you to confirm what the bank or company already knows. The e-mail may try to reassure you with promises that your information will be submitted via a secure server and kept confidential and private.

Don't take the bait. Before you share your information with anyone who e-mails you, consider these tips:

- Be wary of e-mail messages that ask for your personal information. Legitimate companies are not likely to request this information via e-mail.
- If you get an e-mail that raises questions about a business dealing or an account, contact the legitimate company or bank using a telephone number or web address you know to be valid. Do not use any of the contact information supplied in the e-mail.

- Don't share personal financial information via e-mail, even with someone you know and trust. E-mail can be vulnerable to hackers.
- If you receive an e-mail that you believe may be a phishing scam, do not respond. Instead, report the scam to the legitimate business that is implicated in the e-mail.
- If you believe you may have responded to a phishing scam, contact your bank and credit card company immediately. Because you may be a victim of identity theft, you should also visit <www.ncdoj.com> and click on *Consumer Protection* or call (877) ID THEFT. ▲

Attorney General Roy Cooper and his staff are always on the look out for scams that seek to fraud consumers. We are here to be of service when you need us, but through consumer education efforts like these columns we hope to help North Carolinians avoid problems from the start.

THE BEGINNINGS OF OUR FOREIGN MISSIONS

by I. J. Blackwelder

(This article is a partial re-print from p. 8 of The Free Will Baptist, Wednesday, May 27, 1936, Vol. 52, No. 45. The original article was titled "Foreign Missions Efforts.")

In June 1930, a secretary of foreign missions of the General Conference was elected, but it was not until June 1931 that our foreign mission work was really begun. At that time around one hundred dollars was given and pledged for foreign missions work, and plans were laid to begin some definite work somewhere immediately. Therefore, as a result of those plans the support of Mr. R. Paul, a native Indian missionary was assumed, and the first allowance was paid in November 1931. Paul's allowance [was] \$30 per quarter.

From various sections of the country our people responded to this call for foreign missions to the extent that besides Paul's allowance a substantial balance in the

treasury of foreign missions was soon accumulated. In June 1935, therefore, we were in position to assist Miss Laura Belle Barnard in getting to India for the work to which the Lord [had] called her. Her allowance [was] \$20 a month.

Soon after Miss Barnard's departure for India another wonderful opportunity presented itself to our people. Through the Rev. Thomas E. Wiley, Durham, NC, a door opened for work in South America among the native American Indians. Brother Wiley had quite a bit of experience as a missionary in South

America, and he [was] anxious to return to that country to begin an independent work for our church.





"CHRIST"MAS: CHRIST IS CHRISTMAS

Christmas greetings from the Board of Foreign Missions, our workers and their families who faithfully serve the Lord through this ministry. Our prayer is that your Christmas Celebration will be a renewal of your relationship with Him.

WHY DID JESUS COME?

Did He come so we could have a holiday?
Did He come to share His glory with Santa Claus?
Did He come so kids could get lots of toys?
Did He come so the liquor industry could make large year-end profits?
Did He come so retail sales would be good?
Did He come so we could decorate things beautifully?
Did He come so we could exchange gifts with each other?

—OR—

Did He come because the world was lost in sin?
Did He come to give His life a ransom for sin?
Did He come to bring peace and goodwill to earth?
Did He come for all people or just a few?
Did He come to save whosoever will believe?
Did He come to build, equip, and send His church to the ends of the earth with the gospel?

What do you think?
Why is what you think important?
Because what you think will determine your response to God's command
to preach the gospel to every person on earth.
What kind of response can you make?

FOREIGN MISSIONS IS YOUR MINISTRY

1. Your prayer support is needed NOW. Prayer is the keystone to spiritual victory.
2. Gift support is needed NOW! The supreme task of the church is the evangelization of the world.
So, you see, what you think and how you respond NOW will make a difference. Christmas is Christ giving Himself for a world of lost people. Christians are saved ones who give themselves and their means so others can become Christians.

THE MESSAGE OF CHRISTMAS IS YEAR-ROUND WORK FOR CHRISTIANS.

From the Board of Foreign Missions: God bless you with the most meaningful Christmas of your life as you share to make Him known to the ends of the earth.

WHAT DOES THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS DO?

The Board of Foreign Missions serves the Free Will Baptist Church through coordinating its missions effort around the world. There are 250 churches that make up the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists. As these churches contribute to the Board of Foreign Missions the combined giving makes it possible to take the gospel to India, Nepal, Bulgaria, Mexico, and the Philippines. It would be difficult for one church alone to mount such a significant mission effort, but by combining resources much has been accomplished.

The Board uses the funds to send missionaries, take the gospel to other lands, establish local churches, train leaders, support workers, purchase Bibles and literature, build churches, parsonages, and schools, provide relief funds

and aid for the needy, and meet the general needs that are required for a program of this size.

Each church and individual is important to this ministry. All gifts large and small make it possible to do what Jesus called us to do when He said, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature." This is our responsibility. The Board of Foreign Missions serves to help facilitate this monumental task.

I would personally welcome an opportunity to visit your church and share through slides and information the details of *your* ministry. All you have to do to be better informed is extend an invitation. Contact the Board of Foreign Missions at P.O. Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513 or phone (252) 746-4963.



December Is Foreign Missions Month

The month of December has been designated by the Convention as *Foreign Missions Month*. During this month, as every month, we encourage churches and individuals to remember this ministry in prayer and to emphasize missions during your Worship Services. We also ask you to remember Foreign Missions with a special gift this month. These special gifts enable the Board to continue its ministry on behalf of all Free Will Baptist churches to take the Gospel Message to the ends of the earth.



P.O. Box 39
Ayden, North Carolina 28513
(252) 746-4963



FIRST DEACON'S SEMINAR

by Pastor Arman R. Manzano, Palawan, Philippines

From May 30–June 1, 2005 was the first Deacon's Seminar held in the Free Will Baptist Main Church at Rizal Avenue Extension, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan. Lay Church Leaders came from different local churches of the South, Central, and North Districts. About 40 participants were in this seminar to further their knowledge and to mobilize their gifts in the ministry to strengthen every local church through Deacons. The theme, "The Work of the Deacon in the Church," emphasized the charge and responsibilities of the Deacon. The training was organized and sponsored by the Board of Trustees in collaboration with the Association of Indigenous Churches. The seminar was represented by the Rev. Jaapal S. Ontong, Chairman along with the Mission Department, the Rev. Nerry M. Peralta and the Education Department, the Rev. Fidel B. Presto.

The Seminar was successful and ended with a new commitment in the hearts of our Deacons in our local churches. May our prayers bind them so that God will sincerely and mightily use them in the ministry. To God be the Glory!



Guests and participants of the Seminar



The Rev. Jaapal S. Ontong praying for the deacons.

BAPTISMAL SERVICE PHILIPPINES

by the Reverend Nerry Peralta

Praise the Lord, for He continues to add souls to His Church. It is evident through this significant occasion when we baptized eight souls at Ipilan Free Will Baptist Church, Palawan, Philippines on October 2, 2005.

I ask everyone to pray for Sister Janet Sano and her mother, whom God used in this small congregation through outreach.



Baptismal Service

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY SINAI FWB CHURCH SALTILLO, MEXICO

by The Reverend Antonio Escobar

In keeping with the purpose of strengthening biblical knowledge in the life of the women of this church, a program of eight weeks of Bible studies on the doctrinal theme of the Trinity was conducted. We could readily see the interest of the group, and their willing participation in every session. As Free Will Baptists, we believe in the Holy Trinity. The entire biblical outline that was taught left clear information as to why we believe in a Triune God, and the differences of those groups who do not believe in this doctrine.

We could see, at the end of our studies, a (change) difference in each of the women, and a certainty as well as conviction, of the benefit of the study. We thank the Lord that we were able to help our sisters in Christ, and in the same manner enrich the spiritual life of the church.



Woman's Auxiliary, Sinai FWB Church

RACHEL'S JOURNAL

2005 SHORT TERM TEAM MINISTRY TO MEXICO

by Rachel Langley Embler



*Greetings to our
family and
friends,*

Chris and I left a day after we had planned on leaving, but we were right on time for what God had planned! All along the drive down, we were planning for the July trip with the high school students, reading *This Present Darkness*, and seeing a few sights along the way.

We are really excited about the trip with the high school students...even the drive down is going to be interesting. They will be coming down along a different route (not the one we took over Thanksgiving). The drive down will take them through Tennessee and Arkansas instead of SC, GA, Alabama, Louisiana. We will, however, be coming back through the southern states. While we were planning their trip, we also stopped along the way to look for Letter Boxes. It's like a world-wide scavenger hunt (if you want to know more, visit <www.letterboxing.org>.)

About *This Present Darkness*...it's a fictional novel about spiritual warfare. The reader can see what's going on with the angels, demons, and humans all at once. If you've never thought much about what goes on in the spiritual realm, I highly recommend this book! I

have definitely learned about the power of prayer and Christ's power to overcome the devil! We are about halfway through...hopefully along the way the rest of the summer we'll be able to finish it!

The sights we saw...we were able to stay with my Uncle Mark, Aunt Julie, and Bryan the first night and visit with them a bit! Then we headed on to Tennessee where we saw the University of Tennessee's football stadium...apparently it's one of the largest in the country. I had no idea!! Then on we went to Nashville. We arrived right in the middle of Country Music's Fanfair. It was crazy there to say the least, but I was glad that I was able to see a little of "Music City." Our next big stop was in Little Rock, Arkansas. I was reminded again of the sad place from which our country came. It's hard for me to fathom such cruelty to 9 innocent teenagers. In case you don't know, Little Rock was not interested in desegregation when it was ordered by the Supreme Court so they decided not to do it. After much debate and opposition from the police, governor, etc., the National Guard was ordered to the school to allow the "Little Rock 9" safe passage to school for that year. The things I saw and stories I read at the museum were really sobering!! We decided to take a side trip to the Hot Springs National Park after such a serious stop in Little Rock. We had

gone to some hot springs in Colorado on our honeymoon, so we were disappointed when we found a highly-priced commercialized town. We did drink some mineral water from the springs, but that's about it. Next, we went to Denton, Texas to see my Bible study leader from college (and her husband). Hope and I had a great time catching up.

We finally arrived in San Antonio, TX about a day after we planned on getting there, but we enjoyed our time with the Short-Term Team that had just arrived. Although we were a day late, it was God's time. Right as we walked into the hotel on Saturday night, this man started talking to us. I guess he saw the Bible in my hand, so he started to ask us what we were doing. After we explained that we were on our way down to Mexico and our plans for the summer, he began to tell us about his wife. Apparently they've had a lot of problems, but he's serving the Lord now. His wife, Minerva, isn't a Christian, so he asked us to pray for her salvation and their marriage. We ate lunch at Luby's where Chris ordered green and red Jell-o® with Cool Whip® between the two to celebrate our time to come in Mexico. Sunday afternoon we finally arrived in Mexico!! Now it's time to go to work!

*We love you all!
Chris and Rachel*

*Can't think of what to give someone on your Christmas list?
Consider giving a donation to Foreign Missions in that person's honor!*



HOLLIFIELD PROJECT 2005

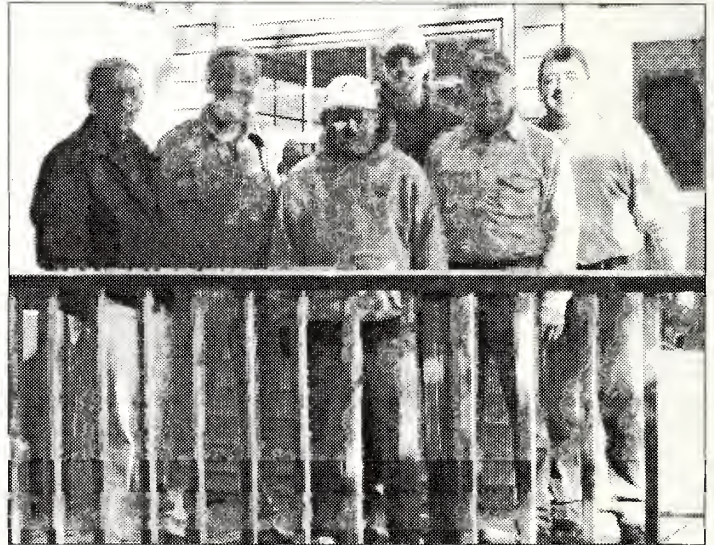
The renovation of the Hollifield House has been a great success in 2005. A new roof is in place, new windows were installed, and vinyl siding has just been completed! Heating and air conditioning will be installed in the near future. Also, our new bathroom addition has been funded with work scheduled to be completed by February 1, 2006. Many, many thanks to all who made donations and volunteers who worked so hard to make this project such a success.

NEW HEIGHTS PHASE II BEGINS

In a called board meeting on Monday, October 28, 2005, the Board of Directors of Cragmont Assembly gave final approval to the report of the building committee. Plans and bids were approved for construction of a one story, forty bed lodge with a construction completion date of May, 2006. This facility will provide much needed bed space for both summer camping and fall retreats as well a large day room area for seminar and classroom use. We are excited to see this phase of our expansion program get underway and we look forward to being able to offer more groups and camps the much needed additional bed space.

FEED A FRIEND— FEED A SOUL— CRAGMONT COOK-OFF 2006

One of the easiest ways a church or group can impact this ministry is through the Cragmont Cook-off. By giving one day—one community fund-raising event—you help us accomplish something great. Every time you sell a plate and feed a friend, the profit from that meal comes to Cragmont and feeds a soul. What is the value of the life of a young person who experiences Jesus Christ while at summer camp? Is that changed life worth a plate of chicken, fish, pork, or pastry? The one day you spend in your church community with a cook-off fund-raiser could feed a soul and change a life forever. Think about it. Plan a day in 2006—just one day—and feed a friend.



Thank You Sound Side workers for completing the vinyl siding project.

CRAGMONT PRESENTATION AVAILABLE

We are in the process of filling our 2006 calendar of church visits. Bryant would love the opportunity to visit your church or group and share the view and vision of Cragmont. He can be reached by calling (252) 670-8424 or e-mail <bryanthines5@aol.com>. We now have computer projection equipment that allows us to share a great presentation in the sanctuary, fellowship hall, or classroom.

MERRY CHRISTMAS
FROM
CRAGMONT
ASSEMBLY!

DO IT FOR THE CHILDREN

From its beginning in 1945 Cragmont was purchased with the young person in mind. Today Cragmont has grown from a summertime ministry to one that spans the four seasons of the year. The desire to come to this place of retreat is just as strong for adults as it is for our young people. Yet, we primarily have visions of our youth when we speak the name "Cragmont."

It is Matthew 19:14 which gives me the scriptural foundation for providing a place of retreat and instruction for young people. Jesus said: "...Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven." One scholar wrote on this passage of scripture that: "These verses are the charter of religious education" (*The Interpreter's Bible* vol. 7, p. 483a.). Our denomination has done a good thing in the founding of Cragmont, for it is in a place such as this that our young people can retreat from what the world deems important for just a little while in order to learn about matters of faith.

On September 12, 2001, the day after the Twin Towers fell in New York, a vision for the future of Cragmont was put before the people of our convention called "New Heights." The

"New Heights" plan is a master plan of new buildings that our Board of Directors have deemed necessary for the future of Cragmont. We have found ourselves in a position where camp directors are scrambling to find space for all who want to attend a week of camp. Some young people will even be denied a camping experience at Cragmont because we lack the bed space and the classroom space to accommodate them. There are also other times of the year when we lack the space to accommodate the people who want to come to Cragmont. In order to alleviate some of this problem the Cragmont board of directors voted on Monday, October 24, to proceed with the construction of the first new building in the "New Heights" plan that will house 40 people and also provide classroom space. This building is just one of many which will give our youth and others the kind of place that is attractive and comfortable yet, not overdone, where effective ministry can take place.

The location which has been chosen for this building is on "Higher Ground." There is significant symbolism in the words "higher ground." Many times visitors to

Cragmont like to hike Mount Allen to enjoy the view from the top (higher ground). Getting there requires extra effort. Extra effort will be required from Original Free Will Baptists in order to complete this new building. The cost of the building is estimated at \$550,000. These pledge levels have been used for the "New Heights" plan from its creation and may still be used to give specifically to this building. If the suggested plan is not suitable for you, please give what you can. The pledges below are only a suggestion.

It is my hope that you will be one of many who catch this vision and make the extra effort to attain this goal of "higher ground." It is my hope that you will be one who will respond with a commitment to a pledge or one time gift to help make this more than a vision. It is my hope that you will stand up and say you would like to make this building a reality. The construction is set to begin soon and we are asking that you respond now.

DO IT FOR THE CHILDREN!

*Thanks,
John Williams, Manager*

PLEDGE CARD

Setters of Stone—A total gift of \$10,000 over five years

Polishers of Stone—A total gift of \$5,000 over five years

Engravers of Stone—A total gift of \$2,500 over five years

Cutters of Stone—A total gift of \$1,000 over five years

Name: _____

Address: _____

Church: _____

Amount: Setters of Stone: _____ Polishers of Stone: _____ Engravers of Stone: _____ Cutters of Stone: _____

Other _____

Please fill out this form, cut out the pledge card, and mail to: Cragmont Assembly, 1233 North Fork Road, Black Mountain, NC 28711



1920-2005 CELEBRATING 85 YEARS OF CHRISTIAN CHILDCARE

Dear Friends:

The Christmas season is almost here, and as we start preparations for the season, we must stop and give thanks to God that we have been afforded the privilege of sharing Christmas with His children for 85 Christmases. Many things have changed over the past 85 years, but sadly, there are still children who do not know what it's like to experience joy and happiness during the holidays.

Can you imagine the joy for a child when they experience their first real Christmas, a Christmas without abuse, without being hungry, and a Christmas not having to be alone? For many of the children we serve, Christmas is just another day. But with your help, we are sharing with them the true spirit of Christmas giving, and unselfish love.

For many, sharing with us at Christmas, and at other times throughout the year has become a family tradition. Again this holiday season, we invite you to be part of our sponsorship program and make a child feel special this Christmas. You can help by contributing \$100 for each child you would like to sponsor. Simply complete the Sponsorship Reservation form below, and return it to us with the appropriate donation by December 1, 2005.

May the warmth and glow of the Holiday Season be upon you in knowing that through sharing you have added a ray of light in the life of a child. Please accept my wishes to you and your family for a Blessed Christmas and a wonderful Holiday Season.

Yours, For His Children,
Bobby R. Taylor
President

FREE WILL BAPTIST CHILDREN'S HOME

Christmas Sponsorship Reservation Form

Sponsor: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

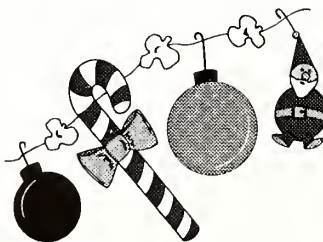
Telephone: _____

Number of Children We would like to Sponsor @ \$100 per child: _____

CAMPUS NEEDS LIST

In planning for the holiday season, there are some items needed for the individual cottages.

- Den furniture (\$3000—cottage)
- Full and Queen size sheet sets and comforters
- Table Lamps (for cottage dens)
- Printer cartridges (call for details)
- Corelle Dish Sets (8 place settings per cottage)
- Sturdy hard plastic tumblers/drinking glasses
- Camcorder/DVD compatible
- Christmas Decorations for individual cottages (ornaments and table centerpieces)





Silent Night, Holy Night



The month of December marks the beginning of the second half of the Convention year. Our efforts have focused on (1) helping our churches grow in numbers by winning souls to Christ and (2) helping our people grow in spiritual maturity by revisiting their relationship with their Savior. The response to the Office of Convention Services has been simply amazing. As of November 30, this office has performed its function on 78 different occasions in churches and other ministry locations.

Along with the presentation and information we share, there is also a word of encouragement and a reminder of responsibility. Including the Convention itself, there are 11 ministries of our denomination that depend completely, in some cases, on the generosity and faithful support of the people they serve. As Original Free Will Baptists, we have pledged our loyalty and our financial gifts to each of these ministries. As a member of the Convention, your church had a part in bringing each ministry into existence. We must now pledge our continuing, and sometimes sacrificial support, in these months of financial hardship, to keep **each** ministry stable and working for the Kingdom of God. To heavily support some ministries while finding reasons not to support others is contradictory to the Church Covenant and to the policies and practices of Original Free Will Baptists. **It is like giving numerous Christmas gifts to one of your children while giving the others little or nothing at all.** As we provide the needed support to all areas of our Convention's outreach, we are carrying out a portion of the Great Commission in those parts of our country and the world reached by our denomination—and we thank you for all you do.

Your Convention Services Office provides a wide array of opportunities, activities, assessments, workshops, and personnel to assist your church in almost any area of ministry. If you are interested in starting a new ministry or just looking to improve what you already have, just give us a call. We will probably be able to offer the help you need through our all new Church Ministry Resource Team and our latest program, "Churches Helping Churches." Working together we can, and will achieve the results God expects of us.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, President Fred Baker, your Conference representatives, Administrative Assistant Andrea Cox, and the Ministry personnel here at the Headquarters, we would like to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and may the blessings of God Almighty flow in us and through us to those who need Him most.

Buddy Sasser, Director of Convention Services



JESUS, OUR EMMANUEL

(Numbers 13:25–30; Matthew 1:23)

by Charles Renfrow

Because the term vision is so well worn, and because we all have the tendency to miss the meaning in over-used terms, let us use a different phrase for a concept of vision, "...the Lord is with us."

The hymn writer, Martin Luther said, "A mighty Fortress is our God, A bulwark never failing;...were not the right man on our side, ...Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He—...And He must win the battle." Grasp the vision, because we are on a "Rock" and "the Lord is with us."

I. A vision is made of heart.

Vision touches both the head and the heart.

II. A vision provides a picture of desire.

Aristotle said, "The soul never thinks without a picture."

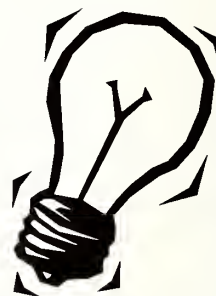
III. A vision is full of hope.

We function best when hope is high. ...*Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see* (Hebrews 11:1 NIV).

History shows us that the Joshua and Caleb report was ineffective. The people chose instead to wander for four decades. When they refused to go into the Promised Land, they had no idea what the repercussions would be. No doubt, most of the Israelites would have reconsidered if they knew they would die in the wilderness without ever having even a glimpse of the Land of Milk and Honey.

Life does not afford us unlimited time and opportunities, so seize that which God makes available and know He is with us all the way.

PULPIT AIDS



(In an effort to keep our churches focused on the Convention of Original Free Will Baptists' annual theme, the Office of Convention Services is offering a monthly presentation outline to use at your discretion. No credit is necessary and you may add to this outline based upon your needs.)

Every one of us has twelve spies inside our heads. Ten strive to convince us why we need to stay put, rally the wagons, and avoid any new route. But two mental spies tell us about greener pastures, fruitful horizons, and impressive skylines. Whom do we trust? Whom should we listen to? Who is speaking the truth? Never forget ...God [is] with us (Matthew 1:23). God created our minds to fulfill what we choose to place in them. When we place fear in our thoughts, our minds quickly seek to substantiate our worries. To whom are we listening? God calls us to live beyond ourselves. Faith forces us to consider the unknown possibilities. **DO YOU BELIEVE THAT GOD IS ABLE TO DO A NEW THING IN OUR MIDST, THAT THE BEST IS YET TO BE?**

PRAYER: *Dear God, today I choose to place my faith in the possibilities. Help me to not complain. Empower me to activate my belief that You are with us and that You have a preferred place for us that flows with milk and honey. The giants can be tamed with Your Presence, O Emmanuel. Amen.*

CONVENTION UPDATE "HELP WANTED"

1. Praise items, salvation, baptism reports, and special events.
2. A digital picture of the exterior frontal view of your church.

E-mail these items to: <buddy@ofwbheadquarters.org>

A REPORT FROM THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE TASK FORCE ON EDUCATION FOR MINISTERS

by Dr. Michael Pelt

At the annual meeting of the North Carolina Ministerial Association of Original Free Will Baptists in 2004, action was taken to form a "Task Force for the Education of Ministers." Members of the Task Force were then appointed by the Executive Committee of the Convention of OFWB and by the president of Mount Olive College. A sub-committee of the Task Force was chosen to evaluate the program of study for ministerial students at Mount Olive College and to work out an arrangement with a seminary or divinity school whereby certain courses could be offered on the campus of Mount Olive College that would be credited toward a degree at that seminary or divinity school.

The need for advanced preparation for ministers of the kind available in a theological school has long been recognized by many in our denomination. The founders of Mount Olive College alluded to this need when they used the word "seminary" in preparing the original charter of the College in 1951. That need has been expressed numerous times in the history of the College. Through the years since the College opened its doors at Mount Olive in 1954, some ministerial students have gone on to complete a bachelors degree and then enrolled in theological schools operated by other denominations, earning the Master of Divinity (M. Div.) degree. There are some who would like to see Mount Olive College offer a program leading to this degree right now, but at this time the College is not in a position to provide regionally accredited programs leading to graduate and professional degrees. It would be unwise to move in that

direction before the College is prepared for it.

For this reason, the Task Force has looked at the possibility of working with another institution to provide some courses on the campus of Mount Olive College. Catalogs from other accredited schools have been obtained and their programs studied during the past several months. Visits to one of our neighboring Baptist schools, Campbell University Divinity School, have led to an agreement which provides for the first course(s) to be offered at Mount Olive in the fall semester of 2006. The agreement will be stated in a "memorandum of understanding" that is yet to be prepared. What course or courses are to be offered will be determined by the number of applications received at Campbell from students who wish to begin or continue a masters program at the Mount Olive location. The courses will likely be offered at night, probably on two nights of each week. Such details will have to be worked out later.

Campbell University Divinity School is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and by the Association of Theological Schools in the United States and Canada (ATS). There are already several graduates of Mount Olive College who are enrolled at Campbell Divinity School. At our request, Original Free Will Baptist students have given us an evaluation of their experiences there and the results indicate that they rate the curriculum, the faculty, and other aspects of the life of the school in a positive way. Our discussions with the administration there have been open and candid and have indicated a

spirit of cooperation on their part that exceeds our expectations. To sum it up, they would like more students of the kind represented by the graduates of Mount Olive College. Courses offered at Mount Olive College could mean that more students from various denominations would eventually receive degrees from Campbell Divinity School while the College would be helping to meet a genuine need for theological education in our denomination and across eastern North Carolina.

We see this as a great opportunity for those who are now serving as Original Free Will Baptist pastors, as well as those who, in the future, will begin their preparation for ministry in our denomination. Those already serving in the pastorate who are conscious of the need for advanced study and those who will be future candidates for ordination can complete their undergraduate program at Mount Olive College and begin to take courses in divinity school leading to the masters degree. More information about this opportunity will be forthcoming in later issues of *The Free Will Baptist*. We are hopeful that some financial aid will be available from the Original Free Will Baptist Foundation and other church sources to help those who are willing to commit themselves to this plan of working toward completion of a fully accredited degree program in theological education. Individuals who are seeking answers to questions about this program may write to the chairman of the Task Force, Dr. De Wayne Eakes, or to Dr. David Hines, chair of the department of religion at Mount Olive College, whose addresses are in the denomination's *Yearbook*.



SUNDAY SCHOOL MINISTRY

"WHEN THE GLASS SLIPPER DOESN'T FIT"

A Spiritual Life Retreat for the Minister's Wife

JANUARY 26-29, 2006

Cragmont Assembly, Black Mountain, NC

Sponsored by the OFWB Sunday School Ministry

As the wife of a minister, have you ever heard anyone say that you certainly are not "the typical minister's wife"?

When you hear this do you understand what they are saying? Probably not. Had you ever thought that this might be a compliment to you as a woman? Just what is a minister's wife supposed to look like, think like, and be like? When you married your husband, he may or may not have been called at the time to be a minister of the Gospel. At any rate, you probably did not fully understand your role in his life when that decision was made. Every young woman is idealistic as she enters a new life with a mate, to begin a family and build a life together. For the minister's wife this can present a different set of frustrations, anxiety, guilt, and possibly anger. A minister's life can and often is filled with times of depression, financial loss, moves across the country, resignations, and even joy. Any of these circumstances can and will affect the minister's family and very often the wife is faced with keeping the home together during these times. From time to time you need to "steal away" and recoup and regroup.

With these thoughts in mind and realizing that many congregations view the minister's wife as something akin to a "superwoman" who can do everything, including teaching Sunday School classes, the Original Free Will Baptist Sunday School Ministry is sponsoring a spiritual life retreat for the minister's wife. The retreat is scheduled for the weekend of January 26-29, 2006, at Cragmont Assembly, Black Mountain, NC. The cost will be \$100 inclusive. We are asking that you arrive on Thursday, January 26, and return home on Sunday, January 29. During this time a special program centered around the book, *The Worn Out Woman (When Your Life Is Full and Your Spirit Is Empty)* by Dr. Steve Stephens and Alice Gray, has been planned to provide the minister's wife with an opportunity to renew her joy in the Lord as she reexamines her many lives.

TO REGISTER, COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION AND RETURN IT TO:

OFWB Sunday School Ministry

P.O. Box 39

Ayden, NC 28513

Make checks payable to the OFWB Sunday School Ministry. The registration should be postmarked by January 21, 2006. We would encourage each church to send the minister's wife to this Retreat by paying the cost for the weekend. If there is a minister's window in your church, you might consider sending her. **JOIN THE "CINDERELLA SISTERS" SUPPORT GROUP!**

MINISTERS' WIVES' RETREAT

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

ANY SPECIAL DIET NEEDS YOU MIGHT HAVE _____

CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

The OFWB Sunday School Ministry is awarding Camp Scholarships for those young people from ages 9–18 who wish to go to camp but who need financial assistance. The scholarship value will cover the cost of the camp, with the exception of personal spending money. The procedure is a simple one.

Complete the application below and return it to the Sunday School Director at P.O. Box 39, Ayden, NC 28513. Use extra paper if it is needed. **Application must be postmarked by December 31 in order to be considered.**

Be sure the application is accompanied by a letter from the pastor of the church or the Sunday School Superintendent substantiating the financial need.

When the selection has been made by an anonymous committee, the applicant will be notified and will inform the Sunday School Director as to which camp he or she wishes to attend. The Director will then send the money to the appropriate camp, whether at Cragmont Assembly or Camp Vandemere. The applicant will need to provide his or her own spending money for the camp week.

The awards will be formally presented at the Annual Sunday School Institute in March at Mount Olive College.

CAMP SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Name _____ Age _____

Name of Parent or Guardian _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Church _____

Conference _____

Write a brief statement as to why you want to go to camp and why you need the financial assistance.
(Use extra paper if needed.)



MOC CHOIR TO PERFORM FALL CONCERT

The Mount Olive College Concert Choir will present its annual fall concert at 7:30 P.M. on Friday, December 2. It will be held at First Baptist Church located on 300 N. Chestnut St. in Mount Olive. This year's program is entitled, "An International Christmas." The performance is free and the public is invited to attend.

The concert will feature favorite

Christmas carols and anthems that showcase various countries and cultures of the world. In addition to traditional works like "An Irish Carol" and a French folk song, "Bring a Torch, Jeannette Isabella," the choir will present some unique works, like a Caribbean calypso carol, an Argentinean "Bolero," and a carol in Swahili. A brass ensemble and per-

cussion will be featured in several works.

"We want the audience to leave with big smiles on their faces and a warm feeling in their hearts," said Dr. Alan Armstrong, director of the choir and chair of the music department at MOC. For more information about the concert, contact Dr. Armstrong, at (919) 658-7188 or (800) 653-0854.

MOUNT OLIVE COLLEGE CLOSES FIVE-YEAR CAMPAIGN



Dr. and Mrs. W. Burkette Raper take a stroll on the red carpet.

Mount Olive College rolled out the red carpet Friday night, November 4, for the conclusion of its five-year capital campaign. Initiated in October of 2000, the New Century Capital Campaign had an ambitious goal of \$23 million with a plan for advancement including the addition of three new buildings on the campus: an academic complex, a communications center and a wellness center, all to be completed by the fall of 2006. In addition, the funding was

projected for new academic programs, endowed scholarships, a growing technology infrastructure, and reduction of the College's long-term debt.

According to Buddy Pope, co-chair of the capital campaign, those in attendance had a great deal to celebrate. "It is exciting to ride through campus and witness firsthand how the individual efforts of so many are making such an impact. You have been the catalysts to building the hopes and dreams of future generations," he stated.

Through a video presentation, special tribute was given to Lois Britt, who was a friend to Mount Olive College and served as co-chair of the capital campaign until her death earlier this year.

The Mount Olive College Singers provided two renditions: "Put a Little Love in Your Heart" and "They Dared to Dream."

"The success that we celebrate here tonight is the combined effort of literally thousands of people who have provided support ranging from worker to donor, from leader to the person who has stuffed envelopes, from hardnosed pragmatist to dreamers. It takes all of us to act boldly but not recklessly," stated Dr.

J. William Byrd, president of Mount Olive College.

Byrd went on to note that the College had not only achieved its goal but exceeded it, having received gifts and pledges in the amount of \$25,803,000. However, even though the College has reached its financial goal, all of the needs of the campaign have not been reached. Many naming opportunities are still available on the three new buildings being constructed.

Expecting that the campaign could grow by another \$1 million, Byrd said he planned to ask the College's Board of Trustees for a six-month extension of the campaign.

Bill Bryan, president of Mt. Olive Pickle Company, addressed the crowd of 150 plus guests: "Much of our 48-member campaign steering committee leadership graduated from other institutions and are dedicated supporters of those colleges and universities. But these individuals provided significant time and gifts—in many cases, much greater than the time and gifts provided to their own alma maters—because of the value they place on the mission and impact of Mount Olive College. Tonight, we roll out the red carpet for

(Continued on next page)

Mount Olive College students, faculty, staff, donors, and friends. But tomorrow, let us not put away the red carpet. Let us use it as a welcoming entrance for new friends in new com-

munities. Let us continue to work to build awareness of Mount Olive College and its programs. Let us continue to seek ways to meet the educational needs of a dynamic,

changing region. Let us continue to lengthen our cords and strengthen our stakes. Let us be just as audacious in the new century as we've been in the last," he concluded.

STUDENTS GIVEN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE ON MISSION TRIP

The Reverend Chris Singleton, who has served as Assistant Director of Foreign Missions, spoke in a chapel service in November making students aware of the opportunity for them to serve on a short-term mission trip to Mexico in March of 2006. He shared experiences from past trips that students have taken and explained what students can expect regarding living conditions in Mexico and their opportunity to witness and serve the Mexican people. Living conditions are vastly different in Mexico from what they are in North Carolina. He invited students to join him in a journey that could be a life changing experience not only for them but for those they will serve.



Pictured are FWB students who were at the chapel service. (Left to right): Dustin Bannister of LaGrange Church, Julie Thomas of Westside Church, Kathryn Cahoon of Sound Side Church, Chris Singleton, Amy Daughtry of Westside Church, and Hillary Williams of Goldsboro First Church.

CONSTRUCTION ON MOC CAMPUS



Construction is progressing on the three new buildings at Mount Olive College. Shown here is the Communications Center to be completed by July 2006.

COMING EVENTS

HONORS DAY

Honor's Day will be held December 2, 2005 in the Murphy Regional Center from 10 A.M. – 1 P.M. Honor's Day will allow applicants the chance to see for themselves the wonderful opportunities available to students participating in the Mount Olive College Honors Program. Qualified students will learn about the Honors scholarships, fun trips, and innovative learning experiences. Please contact Heather Turlington or Dr. Angela Foster at (800) 653-0854 for more information.

CHRISTMAS BUFFET

The Mount Olive Christmas Buffet is an annual event of music, fine dining, and fellowship, and will be held this year on Thursday, December 8. Join us for this festive occasion as we celebrate the Christmas season with music provided by the Mount Olive Community Instrumental Ensemble and Free Spirit. Dinner begins at 6 P.M. and music begins at 7 P.M. Reservations must be made in advance. For reservations, contact Krystal Faison at (919) 658-2502 or (800) 653-0854.

VISITATION DAY

Mount Olive College will host a Visitation Day on Wednesday, January 11, 2006 starting at 9 A.M. High School students and parents will have the opportunity to tour the campus, meet professors and students, attend admissions and financial aid workshops, audition for music and art scholarships, and get information about NCAA Division II athletics eligibility. Bring your completed application and we'll waive the \$20 application fee. The formal activities of the day will end after lunch unless the students are auditioning or meeting with coaches. Please feel free to contact Trista Locklear, Admissions Counselor, at (919) 658-7492, (800) 653-0854, or <tlocklear@moc.edu> with any questions or to register for the event.

CHURCH NIGHT

Free Will Baptist Church Night is Saturday January 28, 2006. The Trojans will be playing the Limestone Saints out of Gaffney, South Carolina. The girls game will tip off at 5 P.M. followed by the boys' game. There will be activities for all ages during both games. Tickets are only \$1. For more information call Tim Woodard at (800) 653-0854 or e-mail him at <twooodard@moc.edu>. Reserve your tickets today.

MINISTER'S PROGRAM

SPREADING CHEER AT CHRISTMAS

Sharon Bryant remembered her grandmother, Elma Marie Woodward in Michigan, in a tribute about the Christmas of 1961. In this tribute, she wrote she was 15 years old, not old enough to drive. She was spending some time with her grandmother at her lake place during her time off from school in Holly, Michigan. Her Grandpa had died that year and Gram lived alone. She was 65 years old that year.

"Grandma was the type that always reached out and gave to others and that Christmas was no exception. I watched her knead dough, fire up the oven and my mouth drooled as cake after cake came out of the oven—tarts, cookies, cheesecakes, etc. I kept saying, 'Who is all this food for Gram?' 'Oh, it's a surprise,' she replied.

"It was Christmas Eve. A snowstorm had started earlier that morning and the snow was piling up with a good 12 inches on the ground already. 'Go get your heavy coat, mittens and boots,' she said. I pulled them out of the closet. 'Now go in the shed and drag the sled out.' 'The sled? What do I need the sled for?' I asked. 'Hush, just do as I

say,' she replied. I went out in the old tattered shed and dug the old wooden sled out, the same one my brother and I used to slide down the big hill on. The same one that when one day my cousins came to visit and we piled five of us on the sled then slid down the hill and hit the tree. Two of us always had crooked teeth after that!

"When I got back inside the house, Gram was packing goodies in boxes, marking names on the boxes. I knew then what she was up to. 'You're going to deliver this one to Mrs. Wermouth, and this one goes to Mr. Wayland, and this one goes to the Snider family.' On and on she went. We brought the sled into the house. Gram tied those boxes with rope and told me I better get going as the snow was getting deep. I thought she was nuts to send me out in that storm. But I went—and it was a day I shall never forget and haven't in all these years.

"I pulled the sled down the country road and the first house was Mrs. Wermouth's. Her husband had died a couple years before and she lived alone. I knocked on her

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door, and when she answered, she smiled and said, 'Well Sharon, Merry Christmas!' 'I've got something for you,' I told her. I handed her the box and told her to open it. I saw the tears in her eyes as she saw the homemade goodies. 'Sit down and let's share a cup of hot chocolate,' she said. She had no tree, she had no family, and I think Gram's goody box was her only gift that year. I got a big Christmas hug when I went to leave telling her I had a lot of boxes to deliver before dark.

"I pulled that old sled down the road to the next house. House to house. But something happened that I didn't think about. People were calling others on the phone telling them what I was doing. And at each house, I was greeted with smiles, tears, and hugs. It took me a few hours to deliver all those boxes. I about froze to death! I drank more hot chocolate and ate more cookies and got more hugs that night than any other time in my life that night. But I also learned the meaning of giving and what one box can do for an elderly person living alone. I saw what it could do for a family who didn't have much. I saw genuine caring people who appreciated it that an elderly woman down the road took the time to remember them. I was so proud of grandma that year."

This story reminded me that although we spend too much and get way too stressed during this time, some of our fondest memories are not of the big gifts but, rather, they are of the small gestures that we have shown and received. Often times, it is the simple things, like the visits, calls, and cards we receive from friends and family that make this season special. There is something about the Christmas season that makes us more caring and willing to share than any other time.

The Christmas season will soon be upon us and all over the world people will be celebrating the birth of the Christ Child. This is a special time of year, and we all look forward to sharing time with family and friends. Part of our joy comes from giving and remembering others with gifts, cards, and the greetings of the season.

It always warms your heart to receive a card or greeting from friends that you have known through the years but no longer see on a regular basis. As time passes, our lives change and we move from one place to another but it is always good to keep in touch with people we have known through the years to let them know we have not forgotten them or the memories we share.

Remember Them!

Over time, some of the ministers who have faithfully served your church have changed pastorates and are no longer an active part of your church family. Many of these men are still working hard in their capacities as pastors while others who, because of advancing years or disability, have retired from the pastoral ministry.

These are the men who preached the revivals, baptized our children, and performed the marriage ceremonies of our parents. Now many of them are unable to attend the Conference meetings or the Convention and we have lost touch with them.

Each year the Minister's Program acknowledges these men who have given so much to our people and churches during Operation Christmas Cheer. During this season the Minister's Program sends Christmas greetings to all ministers age 65 and over along with a monetary gift in the amount of \$125. While the Minister's Program sends the gift, we make it clear that it is the generosity of God's people that makes it possible. This program reaches over 100 ministers at a cost of over \$12,000.00 to the Minister's Program.

Who Makes This Possible?

You do! It is our churches and other organizations within the church that make this program a reality. However, last year approximately 30% of our churches provided no gift support to the Minister's Program. Your support through the year makes programs like this possible. Help us remember them! Those who receive these greetings write back to thank the churches for making this program possible.

What Can You Do?

This program is not self-funding and we depend on churches, Sunday School classes, auxiliaries, Layman's Leagues, individuals, and youth groups that take the time to ask members if this is the type of program that they would like to support. The generosity of Free Will Baptists is well documented and a small gift of \$125 can make the season a little brighter for those who have served.

Your gift helps make a difference during this season to men who have served over the years. Please contribute \$125 or more to help sponsor at least one of these men who have served so well. In addition, we hope you will include the Minister's Program in your budget. Some churches are able to do more, and we would like to encourage them during this special time of year to sponsor two or more ministers. Each year, the Minister's Program steps out in faith to make Christmas Cheer a reality, because without your support we could not afford the cost. Thank you in advance for all that you do and may all the blessings of this season be yours.

To participate please send your gift to:

**The Minister's Program
P.O. Box 39
Ayden, NC 28513**

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The Minister's Program sends a Christmas Greeting
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Help make Christmas a little brigher for all of our ministers over the age of 65!

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our ministers through Operation Christmas Cheer.

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WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

WHEN THE LIGHTS WENT OUT

by Elaine Swinson

Just imagine that you are in a room filled with familiar objects that make you feel comfortable and self-assured, when unexpectedly the lights go out leaving you in complete darkness. That secure feeling you were experiencing is suddenly replaced with anxiety and uncertainty making it very difficult to find your way.

Recently, it was brought to my attention that many of the Woman's Auxiliary of the Original Free Will Baptist Churches are suffering from "The Dimmed Light Syndrome." In some cases, the symptoms have advanced far enough that their lights have completely been extinguished.

Oddly enough, some of the auxiliaries that are experiencing complete "black outs" are the ones that have always enjoyed the brightest lights. In those churches the groups represented a large percentage of the ladies of the congregation, who worked in unison to accomplish great strides in promoting their work in both home and foreign missions.

They supported special projects for all the Free Will Baptist ministries, attended conventions, held study courses to strengthen their knowledge of God's precious Word in the Holy Bible, supported the youth work in their local churches and at the state level, coordinated meals in times of sickness and sorrow, participated in wedding and baby showers, and supported their pastor in special projects, as well as numerous other activities. The hard work of the Woman's Auxiliaries has been instrumental in building churches and providing much needed improvements such as pews, hymnals, carpet, kitchen equipment, scholarships for camp, and a myriad of other items. They were easily identified as a "bright light" within the operation of the church.

Silently, slowly, and without any significant warning, things began to change. Older members began to slip away because of death, poor health, loss of hearing, and lack of

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ability to drive. A great percentage of the female population of the church was obliged to work outside the home in order to make ends meet and provide the necessities for the family due to rising costs of living.

A new era was born, taking the time and talents of the younger women to support their children in after school activities, including various types of playing ball, dance lessons, riding lessons, karate, and music lessons. After young mothers worked all day, took their children to these various activities, cooked supper, helped the children with homework, and got everyone a bath and put to bed, there was no more time left over to attend Woman's Auxiliary meetings no matter how much they wanted to participate.

Trying to entice new members into the group, these ladies have invited prospects to join them at their meetings by personal and written invitations and have hosted cozy teas and dinners to share the mission of the auxiliary. In many cases, response to these endeavors has not had a positive result. Sorrowfully, many younger women, even those who no longer have small children, identify the Woman's Auxiliary as an organization for only the older ladies of the church and do not consider themselves as candidates.

The Woman's Auxiliaries are surely not the only mode of serving the Lord within the boundaries of the individual

churches, but they are an organization that has been tried and proven worthy of accomplishing great wonders through their organization and leadership. As auxiliary members, ladies who are reserved or feel that they do not have any particular talent can respond to the mission call without being placed in the "limelight." All responsibilities, ranging from sweeping the floor to planning a meal for 200 people, are of equal importance.

This article is a challenge to all women in the Original Free Will Baptist Churches to survey your church and take inventory of all you see that you freely take for granted. While you were yet a young child, the Woman's Auxiliary was working fervently along with the entire church membership to help provide what you are enjoying today. Now is the time to take your place among the matriarchs of your church to provide these same privileges to those who are younger than you. Don't be satisfied with others taking on the responsibilities that could be made so much easier if they had your help.

There are no age barriers among the hard working women of the Woman's Auxiliary—God needs all of you to carry out His mission work. Don't stop to analyze the situation; just do it.

PEOPLE AND EVENTS

SMYRNA CHURCH DONATES KITS TO THE AMERICAN RED CROSS

by Helen Smith

The Ethel Tart Circle at Smyrna Church (Cape Fear Conference) collected over 500 items for flood buckets, infant buckets, kitchen kits, bedding kits, etc. for Harvest Connection. In addition to this donation, Helen Smith, a member of the church arranged for over 1,500 cans of food collected during a children's carnival at Benson Elementary School to be donated to the Harvest Connection. The carnival was co-sponsored by the school and the American Red Cross. When children turned in cans of food, they received homework passes. Helen Smith is the volunteer coordinator with the Benson Red Cross.



Pictured left to right: Carolyn Lambert, American Red Cross volunteer and member of Smyrna Church, and Kenny Godwin, member of Lee's Chapel Church (Cape Fear Conference) loading the kits and buckets collected.

SMYRNA CHURCH ORDAINS NEW DEACONS

by Helen Smith



Smyrna Church (Cape Fear Conference) recently ordained two new deacons. Thomas Young (middle) and Lemuel Watson (right) were ordained during the morning worship service on Sunday, September 25. The church's pastor, the Rev. Richard Whitman (left) performed the ceremony and is shown presenting each of the new deacons with certificates.

*Do You Have
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Church News
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That You Would
Like to Share
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POWHATAN CHURCH RECEIVES MILITARY MEDALS

by Rita Jones



The Rev. Jim Bogle accepting the plaque delivered from the Marine Corps by LCpl. Danny Muller.

Powhatan Church in Clayton received a unique distinction at the morning worship service on October 16. Marine LCpl. Danny Muller surprised the congregation with his appearance in full dress uniform just after the service began. He had recently returned home from Fallujah, Iraq. He spoke a few words thanking the church

for all the letters and cards he received during his tour and for the care packages collected and mailed by the youth group. He presented the church with a framed set of two medals—one for the Iraqi Campaign, and one for Humanitarian Service. Part of the dedication on the plaque reads as follows: "...the contributions made for the US Marines of the 1st Battalion, 6th Regiment, and the children of Iraq...Your donations were deeply appreciated and helped in our goal towards peace in Iraq." He said he hoped the children with whom he shared the Slim Jims, candy, and gum would associate "Americans" with the kindness shown to them by the soldiers instead of the evil pictures painted by the terrorist regimes.

YOUTH EVENTS AT POWHATAN

by Rita Jones

The youth of Powhatan Church enjoyed a visit to Ken's Corn Maze on October 15. About 23 people traveled on the Powhatan bus and enjoyed the cool, fall evening of searching through the field for the elusive mailboxes with rubber stamps in them for marking the cards.

The Rev. Troy Lee, Jr., of Pleasant Grove Church in the Western District, visited and spoke at the Youth Revival held October 29. Brother A.J. Canady, a sophomore at UNC-C, brought the Youth Sunday message the next day. He did a "Top Ten" list of excuses given when you invite friends to church activities and the responses you need to address them. Above all, he expressed the importance that none of us are "good enough" to be saved but that the blood of Jesus washes away all our sins and gives us salvation.



"BLESSINGS FROM GOD ARE SO PLENTIFUL"

O Send out thy light and thy truth...
(Psalm 43:3).

Another year is rapidly drawing to a close. In looking back, one can only praise God for the many wonderful things He has done for our camp located down by the Bay River in Pamlico County. Many hands, prayers, and generous financial support have helped to make 2005 a very successful year in reaching out to our people, young and old. With nine weeks of camp and one Woman's Week, approximately 578 people enjoyed worship, fellowship, and numerous activities that brought each participant in a closer walk with our Lord. Over 30 young people accepted Christ into their lives this summer with many others rededicating their walk with Him. Thanks go out to the camp directors for a great job of leadership during the time spent with our youth

this summer. Weekend retreats have brought many return groups to the camp, along with a lot of new groups that had never experienced the camp's environment and facilities. Thanks go out to the coordinators of these retreats for bringing groups to the realization that all need to relax and fellowship one with another spiritually.

Annual events held this year were the Spring and Fall Singin' by the River weekends which brought great gospel groups together sharing testimony through words and songs. Both sings were very successful in bringing funds to the camp to help in operations, as well as future goals that the Board of Directors are striving to see become reality. The August sing was one of the hottest to date, but still many came out to help support the camp. Due to the heat factor, an effort is being made to move the fall sing to a later date for the convenience of the singing groups, supporters, and workers who attend.

The Board of Directors have passed a motion to begin renovations of the outside screened building. Plans are to make this area a chapel for worship times all during the year. The goal is to have this building ready before the 2006 summer camping season. Anyone interested in helping in this project, please designate donations to the Chapel Area.

An ongoing goal the Board of Directors have committed to is the retirement of the debt incurred during Hurricanes Dennis and Floyd. Over the past year, above the normal monthly loan payments, approximately \$20,000 has been applied to the principal loan agreement helping the camp to become more solvent in efforts to grow. Funds from the sale of the Camp Vandemere Cookbook will be used to help pay off these loans, also. Any monies that you would like to contribute to this effort would be greatly appreciated. Please earmark your offering to "debt retirement." Once the debts are retired, the camp can go forward on needed projects to better serve the campers and visitors.

Another way to support the camp is by becoming a Camp Vandemere Lighthouse Keeper. The purpose of our camp is to win lost souls to Christ and to strengthen and renew Christians through various camp weeks, weekend retreats, and other sponsored events. Membership is only \$144 per year, and can be paid all at once or \$12 a month. Once the membership fee has been received, you will receive a certificate which will entitle you to choose one of the following:

- 1 Week of Summer Camp
- 2 Nights Stay in the Family Lodge
- 1 Week Stay on a RV Site

If you are interested in helping to send youth in your church or community to a week of camp, this is an excellent opportunity to help in that outreach. All you have to do is complete the form below and send it to the camp treasurer.

Name _____
Mailing Address _____
Church _____
Signature _____ Date _____

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CAMP VANDEMERE, INC. (Please note on the check "For Lighthouse Keeper's Club").
MAIL TO: Dámon E. Kennedy, Treasurer, Camp Vandemere, Inc., 2079 Tram Road, Mount Olive, NC 28365.

As always, the Camp Manager and representatives from the Board of Directors would like to come to your church or organization and conduct a presentation of what Camp Vandemere can provide for your group. Contact Wesley Taylor, Camp Manager, at (252) 745-3171 or (252) 514-3222 and he will be glad to help you with your request.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and
Camp Manager, we would like to extend to each of you
the Happiest of Holidays this year and many thanks
for all that you have and continue to do
on behalf of the ministry of Camp Vandemere.
May we all abide in God during this season
as He abides in us and trust in Him to
lead us into the new year on the horizon.

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- E-mail to <editor@fwbpress.com>,
- Fax to (252) 746-9248, Attn: Editor,
- Hand deliver, or
- Mail to: Editor, *The Free Will Baptist*
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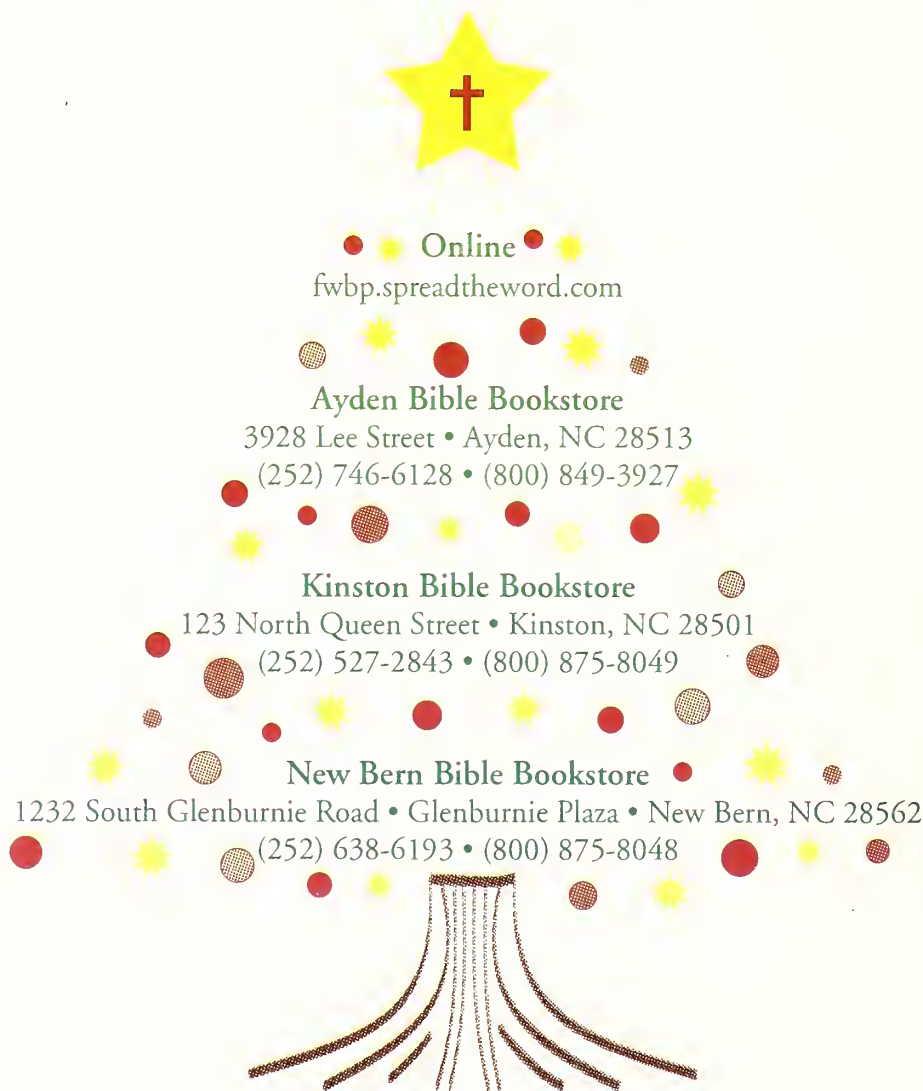
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